Ex-firefighter testifies he owns Roberto's alleged cell phone. » PAGE 2

Tinian casino resort land lease soon before Legislature. » PAGE 3

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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Cargo ship runs aground on reef

ROSELYN MONROYO

A man watches the vessel *Paul Russ*, a 527 feet container ship, which went aground on the reef off Micro Beach as it was entering the Saipan channel early yesterday morning. No one was injured and no oil spill was reported.

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

A 526-foot long, 16,000-ton cargo ship ran aground on the reef off Micro Beach as it was entering the Saipan channel on its way to the Port of Saipan early yesterday morning.

No one was reported injured among the 17 crew of the Antigua and Barbuda-flagged container ship *Paul Russ* and that no oil spill or damage to the vessel was reported, according to CNMI Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management special assistant Marvin K. Seman.

The U.S. Coast Guard captain of Port Guam immediately established a 500-yard safety zone around the grounded *Paul Russ* in the vicinity of Buoy No. 3.

U.S. Coast Guard Sector Guam warned that mariners are not authorized to go within the zone without authorization.

"Mariners, recreational boaters and persons are advised to exercise extreme caution in areas in the vicinity around the safety zone due to the dangers associated with a ground vessel," the U.S. Coast Guard said in a statement.

The vessel reportedly came from Okinawa. It was tilting a bit to the left as it rested on the reef.

In an interview, Seman said they are still trying to determine the actual cause of the incident. He said there are some indications that weather might be the factor.

It was raining hard yesterday and waters in the channel were rough.

Seman said they received a call at 7am about a vessel that went aground.

He said *Paul Russ* regularly comes to Saipan to deliver cargoes to the islands. He said the vessel is carrying household supplies as well as fuel such as butane and propane.

Seman said they had a chance to

See CARGO on Page 4

IN OPEN LETTER TO GOVERNMENT, PUBLIC

Mariana Resort urges resumption of talks with DPL for new 40-year lease

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Mariana Resort & Spa issued yesterday an open letter to the CNMI government and the general public, detailing its reasons for pursuing a new 40-year public land lease. Saipan casino developer Best Sunshine International Ltd. is also asking the Department of Public Lands to grant them a 40-year lease for the same Marpi property.

The Japanese firm estimates $23 million in direct and indirect economic losses to the CNMI in the first year of business closure alone if Mariana Resort is forced to shut its doors.

Mariana Resort also noted DPL's change of tune—from urging Mariana Resort for a new lease to now offering

See MARIANA on Page 4

'PH consulate in NMI could re-open'

By DENNIS B. CHAN
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REPORTER

Marciano De Borja, the new Consul General of the Philippines in Guam, hopes that the Philippine Consulate General office on Saipan can be re-opened in 2016 with a change of administration in the Philippines.

He said the office could "re-open, perhaps on a scaled-down" level, noting that 10 consular posts around the world were closed down in 2012 due to cost-cutting measures.

He told *Saipan Tribune* that re-opening a consular office here is part of his office's "long-term recommendations" to the Philippine government, acknowledging the large number of Filipinos in the region.

"I don't think the presence of Filipi-

See CONSULATE on Page 4

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Local

Ex-firefighter testifies he owns Roberto's alleged cell phone

FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Richard S. Benavente, a former firefighter who pleaded guilty to a count of exploitation of a child, testified yesterday in the jury trial of Raymond B. Roberto in federal court, saying he owned the cell phone with the number 789-3443. One of Roberto's three alleged underage victims earlier testified that Roberto used that number.

Benavente, 44, however, stated during cross-examination that he never told any FBI agents or police officers about owning that phone number. He said he was never asked about the number.

Benavente also denied claiming ownership of 789-3443 to cover up for Roberto.

The former firefighter also disclosed that he wrote three letters to U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona, informing her, among other things, about him using the phone number.

Two of the alleged victims earlier testified that Roberto used the number during their text conversations.

Manglona is presiding over the ongoing trial of the 41-year-old Roberto, who is charged with three counts of enticing three minors to engage in prostitution and one count of witness tampering.

When *Saipan Tribune* left the courtroom yesterday afternoon, Assistant U.S. Attorney Rami S. Badawy was still cross-examining Benavente.

Roberto's defense counsel, Joaquin Torres, called Benavente to the witness stand yesterday afternoon after the mother of one of three alleged victims completed her testimony.

Before allowing Benavente to testify, Manglona held a sidebar discussion with the prosecution and defense lawyers. Attorney Michael Dotts, the new court-appointed counsel for Benavente, was also asked to join the discussion.

After the sidebar discussion, Manglona explained to the former firefighter about a pending issue with his plea agreement with the U.S. government.

The U.S. government filed a motion to declare Benavente in breach of plea agreement. The motion is sealed.

During Torres' direct examination, Benavente said he used cell phone number 789-3443 in 2013 and that he got the phone from two of Roberto's alleged victims.

Benavente said he used the cell phone to call the girls. He said he last used the phone when he called one of the girls on July 16 or 19, 2013.

Benavente said he surrendered his cell phone to the Department of Public Safety when police officers arrested him. He said police also took his bag that contained SIM cards, memory cards, SD card reader, flash drive, and another cell phone.

Benavente said he was told that he screwed up his plea agreement and that as a result he may spend the rest of his life in jail.

He said that in the next interview with FBI agents and prosecutors about the cell phone, he just told them whatever they wanted to hear.

He said he wrote one letter notifying Manglona about the cell phone and that 789-3443 was his number. He said nobody instructed him to write the letters to Manglona.

He and Roberto at the time were staying in the same section at the Department of Corrections.

He said the FBI and prosecutors told him that he claimed to own 789-3443 because he was covering for Roberto and that he was screwing up his plea agreement and that more charges will be brought against him.

"Thirty-years in jail is a freaking long time. I would not see my kids," he said.

He agreed with Torres that part of the plea agreement that he entered with the U.S. government was to cooperate with investigators and to testify truthfully, not just in Roberto's case but in others as well.

He said after the first meeting with FBI agents and prosecutors on April 25, 2014, he wrote the letter to Manglona.

Benavente said before the first meeting started, FBI special agent Haejun Park asked him if he's changing sides and he replied, "No, what are you talking about?"

He said they think he was covering up for Roberto.

"I'm not covering up for Roberto. I'm just trying to come up with the truth," he said.

Benavente said that during the second interrogation in May 2014, he changed his story by telling them that it was actually not his number and that it was Roberto who asked him to write a letter to the judge.

"I don't want to be in jail for 30 years so I just said yes to them," he said.

Benavente said he changed his story, believing that maybe he will get back his plea agreement.

In the third meeting, Benavente went back to his original story that he owns the number. He said he made the decision after his mother told him to just tell the truth.

During cross-examination, Badawy asked Benavente that during his testimony, he stated that the girls gave him the cell phone. Benavente said he did not say cell phone, but SIM card.

When pressed, Benavente maintained that he stated SIM card. He agreed with Badawy, though, that he did not use the phone in March, April, and May 2013.

Benavente agreed with Badawy that when police officers interviewed him on July 19, 2013, he did not tell them about the cell phone number and SIM card. He said they never asked him about it.

Benavente had already pleaded guilty in February, on charges related to a June 23, 2013, incident where he had sex with a minor and recorded it using a cell phone. An FBI agent alleged that Benavente took videos of himself having sex with two 15-year-old girls.

The investigation on Benavente led to the filing of charges against Roberto as the latter allegedly engaged in sexual conduct with one of the same girls.

Before Benavente took the witness stand, the mother of one of three alleged victims completed her testimony.

The mother said a person told her that her daughter was having sex with Roberto so she asked her daughter through text about it. She said her daughter stated that Roberto never touched her.

When asked by Roberto's counsel, Torres, why she did not call the FBI upon learning about her daughter's alleged sexual relationship with Roberto, the mother said she did not do so because she wanted to know about it from Roberto himself.

She said she confronted Roberto but he stated he would not do that to her daughter.

The mother admitted that her daughter asked her to deliver a letter and her daughter's friend's letter to Roberto on Aug. 5, 2013.

She earlier testified that she read the letter while Roberto was driving his pickup truck and that Roberto was very upset about it.

CUC still finalizing solar energy project

By JAYSON CAMACHO
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. is still finalizing its solar energy project, according to executive director Alan Fletcher

"There still hasn't been any action on it yet but we are working toward it," Fletcher told *Saipan Tribune.*

He said they are on track to develop a power purchase agreement with American Capital Energy.

In last month's board meeting, CUC board chair David Sablan Jr. was not quite too sure about finalizing the project because he wanted Rota included.

"We have to really look into the solar energy because we are not too sure how the project will pan out but we also need CUC's report from their management and maybe have another contractor for Rota," Sablan told board members.

Fletcher said that CUC envisions solar plants of up to 0.6MW for Rota and up to 9.4MW for Saipan.

During their board meeting in July, Sablan said there could be problem with the 0.6MW CUC envisions for Rota because the island needs more than that.

Sablan recommended that the contract for Rota be amended or that another RFP be issued for an additional 1.4MW, but Fletcher said that CUC should avoid over-procurement. He did note that the project is expandable in its design.

Rota is currently at 1.3MW in diesel generation for peak maximum usage.

On June 19, ACE disclosed that CUC gave them an exclusive right to negotiate a solar power purchase agreement in 2011.

The CUC board gave CUC management the go-signal on June 19 to move forward with the PPA and finalize the contract with ACE, with consideration that the planned 10-megawatt capacity is built on Saipan (8MW) and Rota (2MW).

The project cost is estimated from $35 million to $40 million.

Fletcher's example is that CUC would not build a new 80MW power plant on Saipan.

"Our current demand peaks at around 35MW. If we were to build a new plant, we would build to the current demand, say 40MW range," Fletcher earlier told *Saipan Tribune*. "And build in the ability to expand in the future as new customers come online and scales increase."

According to Fletcher, CUC continues to work through a backlog of customer-owned solar project applications now totaling 2.3MW. "It counts for over 30 percent of CUC's annual operating and total budget," Fletcher said.

Fletcher said considerations for completion are the final sizing to allow some net metering, final pricing of markets more favorable today, final contract form, and financial guarantees of assets now available if the solar project were to come into action.

ACE is looking at building the project within 46 months.

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COMMUNITY BRIEFS

CCA board meeting on Sept. 23

The Commonwealth Cancer Association's board of directors will be holding its regular meeting on Tuesday, Sept. 23, 2014, at 3pm at the CCA conference room. Agenda includes reports from the president and program updates. All board meetings are open to the public. For more information, contact the CCA at 682-0050 or email at cca@ccamarianas.org. ***(CCA)***

Navy training at Warning Area 517

ASAN, Guam—The U.S. Navy will conduct training at Warning Area 517 on Sept. 12 from 6am to 11:59pm. The general public—especially fishermen, commercial pilots, and marine tour operators—are advised to stay clear from the area during the times and date indicated. W-517 is an irregular shaped polygon comprising of 14,000 nautical square miles of airspace that begins south of Guam and extends south-southwest in international waters. This will affect fishing in the vicinity of Santa Rosa Reef and Galvez Bank. ***(PR)***

Tinian casino resort land lease soon before Legislature

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Lt. Gov. Jude U. Hofschneider and Tinian Mayor Ramon Dela Cruz separately said yesterday that a proposed public land lease for a $200-million casino resort on Tinian will soon be presented before the House of Representatives and Senate for action following what they described as a successful negotiation between Macau-based Alter City Group and the CNMI Department of Public Lands.

Any proposed lease of more than 5 hectares of public lands requires the Legislature's approval.

"Over a period, the investor will invest at least $200 million in this project. It will help the economy of Tinian and the CNMI. I urge the Legislature to review the proposed lease and consider approving it," Hofschneider told *Saipan Tribune*.

He said Alter City, along with its investment partners, has investments in Hong Kong, Taiwan, and mainland China.

Dela Cruz, in a separate interview, said he's also calling for a joint session of the Legislature to "consider" a proposed lease agreement between DPL and Alter City Group.

"The proposed lease agreement has been successfully negotiated by DPL and the investor. It now goes through a publication process then it will be presented to the Legislature," the Tinian mayor said, adding that the project "will add a great economic stimulus" to Tinian and the CNMI as a whole.

The proposed public land lease on Tinian is for 25 years, with an option to extend by 15 years, for a total of 40 years.

Hofschneider said the proposed project has three phases. The first phase involves the construction of a 362-room hotel, an 18-hole golf course, villas, and a casino. This costs some $80 million, which will be self-financed, Hofschneider said.

Alter City also still has to apply for a casino license.

The second phase, funded through venture capital equity, will include a waterpark and villas, along with a Chamorro Museum—all worth about $60 million, the lieutenant governor said.

The third and last phase also costs about $60 million, through venture capital equity, and includes the construction of a 161-room Blue Plumeria Resort.

"I believe that the proposed public contribution is helping with the Tinian airport and ferry service," Hofschneider said.

A Republican, Hofschneider is seeking a Senate seat representing Tinian, a post he previously held as president before he ascended to become lieutenant governor. Dela Cruz, meanwhile, is seeking re-election as Tinian mayor as an independent bet.

Alter City plans to build its casino resort at Nasarino Beach/Puntan Diablo, the same area that was previously leased by Marianas Resort Development Corp. before the latter abandoned the lease. MRDC had planned to build a $300-million Matua Bay Casino Resort on the property, including an 18-hole golf course.

Tinian, like Saipan and Rota, has received offers from foreign investors for a host of multi-million and multi-billion dollar projects that eventually fizzled. This time around, Tinian officials hope that Alter City Group will be different.

"I urge the investor to honor the lease agreement once it's approved," Hofschneider said.

Two-thirds of Tinian lands are leased by the U.S. Department of Defense.

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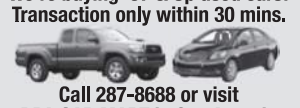
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Overhaul of hospital's HVAC system still lagging

By JAYSON CAMACHO
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REPORTER

Due to lack of funds, unpaid hospital bills, and high monthly utility payment to the Commonwealth Utilities Corp., the long-awaited overhaul of the Commonwealth Health Center's HVAC system remains at a slow pace.

According to Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. hospital administrator Jesse Tudela, the hospital is still working on the heating, ventilation, and air-conditioning system as part of the corrective action plan submitted to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services.

"Although we have addressed many of the corrective measures, the HVAC system is still ongoing," Tudela told *Saipan Tribune*.

In an earlier interview, CHCC chief executive officer Esther Muña said they are close to finishing the HVAC system project.

"Since we got the approval of our corrective action plan, we have been addressing the plan before it was approved and the HVAC system is still ongoing and is nearing completion," Muña said.

CHCC's monthly utilities consumption is nearly $500,000, according to CUC.

The HVAC project is part of CHCC's cost-cutting measures to help reduce energy consumption at the hospital because it will replace the cooling and water heater tank with a more efficient unit.

CHCC earlier assured that the project will not jeopardize patient safety and patient care.

The hospital's current HVAC system was installed in the 1990s and uses R22-type refrigeration system, designed for a small population.

Saipan Tribune learned that the U.S. Department of the Interior's Office of Insular Affairs awarded the CNMI nearly $13.771 million in capital improvement grants last year, of which $4.958 million was given to CHCC for the HVAC project and sprinkler and fire alarm system replacement.

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NMC: Tang's assertion is false

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REPORTER

The Northern Marianas College objected yesterday to a portion of NMI Settlement Fund trustee Joyce C. H. Tang's report, saying that the assertion that NMC is not complying with the terms of Betty Johnson's settlement agreement is false.

NMC counsel Mark A. Scoggins said that Tang concluded with a request that the federal court issue an order requiring NMC to comply with a provision of the settlement agreement by paying all employer contributions at the rate of 30 percent together with accrued interest.

Tang's "request" does not comport with the Rules of Civil Procedure, which provides that request for a court order must be made by motion, said Scoggins in NMC's limited response to the report.

"There has been no motion, but if there ever is a motion on this issue, NMC would like an opportunity to brief the matter," said the lawyer in NMC's response filed in the U.S. District Court for the NMI.

Scoggins said NMC submits that the court should be fully informed about NMC's position before making any order requiring the college to make further payments into the Settlement Fund.

In the meantime, Scoggins requested that Tang inform the court and the parties about whether the trustee has legal counsel, and if so, who that person is.

Scoggins said that is necessary because he has been told previously that the trustee has legal counsel, and does not wish to be improperly communicating with a represented party in the event this, or any other issue, moves forward.

In her combined second and third quarter report for fiscal year 2014 filed in federal court, Tang said that NMC has not paid the full amount of the employer taxes as required in a provision of the settlement agreement.

"NMC was notified of this requirement and still refused to pay the delinquent balance," Tang had said.

DENNIS B. CHAN

Philippine Consulate General in Guam Consul General Marciano De Borja, second from right, poses with Gov. Eloy S. Inos, third from right, and other leaders of he Filipino community in the CNMI during a courtesy visit yesterday at the Governor's Office in Capital Hill. Also in photo with De Borja and Inos are, from left, governor's special assistant for special projects Daniel Buniag, United Filipino Organization president Annamae Adaza, honorary consul nominee Glicerio Arago, and UFO secretary Mario Mayuga.

CONSULATE

From Page 1

nos will decrease. It will probably increase," he said.

Meanwhile, he promised to increase the frequency of consular mobile services—which now occurs once every quarter—to every other month.

This, he hopes, will eliminate backlog of Filipino nationals applying for the different services his office offers.

De Borja's visit to Saipan comes as another mobile consular service is currently ongoing at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe. This will run from the Sep. 9 to 11.

A total of 600 Filipinos have been scheduled to have their passport renewed, according to the office.

In only its first day, 480 nationals have already applied for passport renewal for next quarter's services in November—which, according to United Filipino Organization president Annamae Adaza, is the quota as of now.

Jenny Rizo, who as of yesterday afternoon had been waiting since morning to get her passport extended as it expires next year, said she would like to see a consulate general office on Saipan.

"For Filipinos, right now it's hard. Some people here still can't go to work," she said.

'Courtesy visits'

De Borja paid a visit to Gov. Eloy S. Inos and the Office of the Attorney General yesterday.

The two had a casual and lively conversation, with De Borja offering the governor "Raffe Gourmet" chocolates from Cebu, noting that Philippine President Benigno Aquino gave the same chocolates to U.S. President Barack Obama during his visit to the country.

"We're happy with the good treatment of our nationals here. We're here to coordinate with your office regarding any problems," De Borja told Inos.

De Borja told the governor that ideally there should be a consulate on Saipan, even a small one.

He noted that the present Philippine administration has not made a decision on the matter.

"I don't like to tell our countrymen that we have to wait until the next administration but that's the reality," he said.

CARGO

From Page 1

talk to the crew and that they are doing fine and are just monitoring to make sure that nothing goes wrong with the vessel.

He said the Department of Public Safety's Boating Safety, Commonwealth Ports Authority, Division of Fish and Wildlife, and Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality are monitoring the situation.

A unified command center was established at the Commonwealth Ports Authority's Seaport Office to coordinate response efforts.

A command post for the operations side was also put up at the DPS Boating Safety Unit at Smiling Cove.

Seman said that partners from the regulatory side, the U.S. Coast Guard, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, CNMI Division of Fish and Wildlife, and biologists are there to determine and give a better assessment of the damage to the reef and impact.

At the same time, Seman said, DPS Boating Safety is there to ensure that in the event something wrong does happen, there will be first responders.

He said they are working together with a shipping agent as well as the responsible party to make a determination on a salvage plan.

Seman said the plan is basically identifying details as to how they are going to get the vessel out safely, ensuring that its integrity is not compromised at any point to prevent more problems.

MARIANA

From Page 1

the same public land to Best Sunshine.

"There is other land available for the resort-casino. We see no legitimate or useful purpose to force the closure of Mariana Resort," said Yoshihiro Kitami, president of Kan Pacific Saipan Ltd., which does business as Mariana Resort & Spa.

Kan Pacific is one of the only few remaining major Japanese investments in the CNMI. It has been in the CNMI for 36 years. Its current public land lease expires on April 30, 2018, and it is pursuing a new lease of up to 40 years with a commitment of at least $30 million in added investment.

Kitami reiterated the company's belief that allowing Mariana Resort and the casino licensee "to both operate, both pay taxes, and both pay lease rental" is in the CNMI's best interest.

"We are committed to the CNMI, and we look forward to resuming our talks with DPL for another 40-year lease," Kitami said in a three-page open letter, copies of which were also distributed to members of the House of Representatives and Senate yesterday.

Rep. Anthony Benavente (Ind-Saipan), chairman of the House Natural Resources Committee, said yesterday he's glad that Mariana Resort came out with an "open letter" clarifying its intention of continuing to operate in the CNMI.

"It's only right that they state their reason for wanting to have a new lease, and for DPL and Best Sunshine to stop harassing them when their present lease won't be up until 2018 and Mariana Resort wants to continue to operate," Benavente said.

Benavente, echoing Mariana Resort's stance, said DPL could have offered Best Sunshine other beach property sites for its integrated casino resort.

"Why does DPL have to force Mariana Resort out of business?" Benavente said.

The House Natural Resources Committee is planning to conduct an oversight hearing on the status of public land leases by hotels and what DPL has been doing to address these leases.

The Legislature's approval is also required for any proposed lease of public lands over 5 hectares.

DPL Secretary Pete A. Tenorio said there is no decision yet to refer any new lease for the Mariana Resort property to the Legislature, "nor an offer made yet to Best Sunshine for the land at Mariana Resort."

Gov. Eloy S. Inos said that granting a new lease for the Marpi land depends on a host of factors, especially the CNMI's "long-term best interest."

Mariana Resort commits a $30 million added investment under a new 40-year term, while Best Sunshine commits to investing a minimum of $3.14 billion in an eight-year period for its integrated casino resort.

"But again, it's the longer-term best interest of the CNMI that's going to be the primary criteria for the continued commercialization of the Mariana Resort property," Inos said.

If and when Mariana Resort does not get a new lease, the property and the structures revert to the CNMI government.

"It's a standard contract clause," the governor said.

'The issue'

Kitami said in and before 2013, DPL and Mariana Resort were in active talks for the renewal of the hotel's public land lease in Marpi. Substantial progress was made, Kitami said, and it appeared that a renewal—or new lease—was imminent.

"However, it has now become public knowledge that Saipan casino-licensee Best Sunshine is trying to convince the CNMI government to put an end to Mariana Resort & Spa and transfer the property to Best Sunshine when the current lease expires," Kitami said.

Kitami made clear Mariana Resort's position that it should be allowed to continue to operate through the provision of a new 40-year lease "and" that the new casino-licensee develop its integrated casino on other available property.

Negotiations

In May 2013, DPL sent a letter to Kan Pacific encouraging it to extend its lease.

Kitami said in that letter, DPL stated it is optimistic that approval by the Legislature will be granted and that DPL will use its best efforts to obtain legislative approval for such an extension.

Negotiation for the lease ensued, with Kan Pacific submitting a proposal committing $30 million in additional improvements to Mariana Resort.

These include 100 additional hotel rooms, significant improvements to the golf course, expanded food and beverage operations, and the addition of a hotel infinity pool.

Kitami said as they continued trying to make headway on its proposal with DPL and move the negotiations toward a conclusion, they were not advised that another party (Best Sunshine) was communicating with DPL regarding its interest in acquiring the Mariana Resort property.

"As we now understand from Best Sunshine's letter to DPL dated Sept. 2, 2014, they have been actively working to lease both the Mariana Resort property and the Paupau property just south of Mariana Resort (released by the RFP awardee Tan Holdings Co., which has since leased the Wing Beach property just north of Mariana Resort)," Kitami said.

6 reasons

Kitami cited six major reasons why Kan Pacific is good for the CNMI and should stay on the islands.

"We are a great hotel," Kitami said, citing their facilities. "We are a good corporate citizen."

Kitami also said that Kan Pacific is community-minded, and "contribute strongly" to Japanese tourism arrivals and investment.

Kan Pacific is the longest standing Japanese hotel owner on Saipan, serving an average of nearly 30,000 Japanese guests per year.

Japan used to be the CNMI's main tourism market. This fiscal year, they were overtaken by Korea, while arrivals from China and Russia continue to soar.

Kitami said the Japan market should not be disregarded. It should be preserved and cultivated, he said.

"The China and Russian markets are dependent on the visa waiver program, which can be changed or ended at any time by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security," he added.

Lastly, Kitami said Kan Pacific is "trustworthy."

"Forcing Kan Pacific to close Mariana Resort and leave Saipan would have undesirable consequences," Kitami said.

These include the decrease or loss of the Japanese market and supporting air service, loss of millions of dollars annually in taxes and lease payment, job loss for 167 employees, loss of revenue and jobs for support services or contracted businesses, negative impact on related Japanese investment, among other things.

TMS hits sweet spot of ideal teacher-student ratio

By DENNIS B. CHAN
dennis_chan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The 185 students enrolled at Tanapag Middle School as of yesterday is "exactly what was targeted for" in preparation for the new school year, according to TMS principal Ruth Calvo.

With that number, classroom sizes stand at a teacher-student ratio of 20:1, which meets the Board of Education policy of 25:1.

Calvo called the situation "very ideal," as most parents have adhered to zoning rules.

"When you have your target number, sometimes it goes really up or really down. This time it's on target. Everybody stuck to the zoning," she said.

She said the school is working on finalizing their numbers this week as several students who did not show up last week did so this week.

Previously, TMS was an elementary school with some of its current students attending their seventh and eight grades as far as Kagman in the then-ChaCha Oceanview Junior High School.

She is glad there is middle school now to strengthen the student community in the area.

"When [Chacha] did have after-school programs, it was very difficult because they live so far," she said.

According to Calvo, TMS has three sections of sixth grade, four sections of seventh grade, and three sections of eight grade, which she feels have better classroom environments now as things seem more organized.

Another benefit of a smaller community school is more parent support.

"One of the goals that we wanted for middle schools is that parents are able to support their children in whatever after-school activities they have," Calvo said, citing baseball as the most popular.

'Self-contained vs departmentalized'

Calvo said she had teacher Nina Ross help her and other teachers with the middle school transition as Ross took part in phase 1 of the middle school transition.

"Ms. Ross was able to share her experiences with other teachers and tell them it would be a whole lot easier for middle school to be departmentalized than to be self-contained," she said, adding that there are more standards and benchmarks with middle schools.

In a separate interview, Ross said her experience made this year's change much easier, and that there were teachers' meetings to prepare before the close of last year.

Eluene Baza, who is in her first year teaching middle school after coming from teaching elementary, said she is "still trying to get used to this whole middle school concept" and expects to be settled around the middle of the first quarter of the school year.

"It's a lot of stress because you focus on subject but [at] two grade levels," she said, noting how she has to adjust herself to every new group coming into her class.

She said the students, however, seem to "love" going from one room to another for their classes instead of being confined to one room.

Calvo, who was previously acting principal of Kagman Elementary School, said she had noticed while working there that sixth graders separate themselves socially from grades below them.

On phase 1 last year, she said the sixth graders "were really happy" with the transition.

"You could see it in the way they segregated themselves from the elementary students, they didn't want to mix with the elementary. Sixth grade and fifth grade were always teamed together for lunch but you don't see sixth graders hanging out with the fifth graders, they've always separated themselves from the fifth grade, so they were ready to be in a middle school setting," she said.

A difference she noted in working with elementary students and middle school students is that elementary students "do as they are told" while middle schoolers need to be empowered in that difficult transition between child and adult.

"We want to empower them to make that right choice," she said.

DFS REBRANDING DENNIS B. CHAN

Traditonal Refaluwasch dancers put on a passionate performance as part of the entertainment provided at a DFS rebranding event in Tipiyeew Village, Garapan last Saturday. DFS and the Carolinian Affairs Office hopes to turn the village into a thriving place for culture and arts.

DIVISION OF YOUTH SERVICES
DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY & CULTURAL AFFAIRS
P.O. BOX 501000 C.K. SAIPAN, MP 96950

Opening Date: October 01, 2014 **Closing Date:** October 10, 2014

Department of Community & Cultural Affairs

FY' 2014 FAMILY VIOLENCE PREVENTION & SERVICES ACT

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

The Department of Community & Cultural Affairs (DCCA) is soliciting request for proposals for the FY 2015 Family Violence Prevention and Services Act (FVPSA) funds as defined in section 306(a) of the FVPSF Act under Title III of the United States Department of Health and Human Services. A total of $117,725.00 is made available to be divided and sub-granted to non-governmental agencies/non-profit community organizations (including faith-based and charitable organizations, community-based organizations, and voluntary associations) in the CNMI upon satisfying the specific requirements/provisions of the said funding through the "Family Violence Prevention and Services Act".

The purpose of the FVPSA funding is to make grants available to States and Territories to assist in:

1. Efforts to provide immediate shelter and supportive services for victims of family violence, domestic violence, or dating violence, and their dependents;
2. Efforts to increase public awareness about, and primary and secondary prevention of, family violence, domestic violence and dating violence;
3. Providing for a national domestic violence hotline;
4. Providing for technical assistance and training relating to family violence, domestic violence, and dating violence programs to States and Territories, local public agencies (including law enforcement agencies, courts, and legal, social service, and health care professionals in public agencies), nonprofit private organizations (including faith-based and charitable organizations, community-based organizations, and voluntary associations), tribal organizations and other persons seeking such assistance and training.

A copy of the grant general requirements/conditions, sub-grantee's responsibilities, and other scope relating to the funding can be obtained at the DYS main office, House #1262 Isa Drive, Capitol Hill. For additional questions or inquiries, please contact Rita Castro at 664-2591 or Vivian Sablan at 664-2550.

/s/Vivian T. Sablan
DYS Administrator

/s/Laura T. Ogumoro
DCCA Secretary

Department of Community & Cultural Affairs

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

The Department of Community & Cultural Affairs (DCCA) is soliciting request for proposals for FY 2014- 2016 Community Service Block Grant (CSBG) funds defined in section 676A of the CSBG Act under title XX of the Unites States Department of Health and Human Services. Funds will be sub-granted to an agency/non- profit organization in the CNMI upon meeting the specific qualifications/provisions of the said funding through the CSBG State Plan.

The purpose of the CSBG funding is to make grants to State and Territories for the reduction of poverty, the revitalization of low- income communities and the empowerment of low- income families to become fully self- sufficient. The special intent of this funding will be to fund projects that will provide services to the community who are considered economically disadvantaged.

All proposals must be submitted to the Division of Youth Services, Community Service Program Office no later than **October 10, 2014, 4:30 p.m.** A copy of the grant general requirements/conditions, sub-grantee responsibilities and other scope relating to the funding can be obtained at the DYS/CSP Office in Capitol Hill. For additional questions or inquiries, please contact Jennifer Tanaka CSP Program Coordinator, Nina Nekaifes Assistant Program Coordinator at 664-2559 or Vivian T. Sablan DYS Administrator at 664-2550.

/s/ Laura T. Ogumoro
DCCA Secretary and CSBG Administrator
for Community Service Programs

Marines arrive on Tinian for Valiant Shield 2014 exercise

By LANCE CPL. DAVID WALTERS
MARINE CORPS AIR STATION IWAKUNI

TINIAN, North Mariana Islands—Marines with Marine Wing Support Squadron 171 arrived on Aug. 22 and 31 on Tinian for Exercise Valiant Shield 2014, which is scheduled to begin Sept. 15.

Valiant Shield is a biennial exercise which focuses on training that enables real-world proficiency in sustaining joint forces through detecting, locating, tracking and engaging units at sea, in the air, on land, and in cyberspace in response to a range of mission areas.

During the nine-day period between arrivals, Marines prepared for the exercise by clearing multiple acres of overgrown vegetation from the flightline and outlying areas, and readying the gear, according to Capt. Kevin M. Wheeler, the aviation ground support detachment officer-in-charge with MWSS-171, Marine Aircraft Group 12, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, III Marine Expeditionary Force.

"In 10 days we have been able to unload over a couple hundred pieces of gear off of a ship that came from Iwakuni," said Wheeler. "We have multiple camps that we are operating here in Tinian, and MWSS-171 has been the lead unit in transporting and fueling that equipment, and supporting the Marines that are out here."

Marines also prepared an area for a forward operating base.

"The biggest thing Tinian provides is the space for us to set up our equipment to build up the forward operating base," said Wheeler. "We have a couple training areas in Japan with the Japan Self-Defense Force, and they are a huge help to us, but here we have no other competing units for training areas."

Laying out tents and establishing infrastructure for living and operations was also necessary for creating a FOB, according to Staff Sgt. Timothy Cruz, the engineer assistant chief with the squadron.

Lance Cpl. David Willey, an engineer assistant for the squadron, is responsible for preparing and maintaining a well-established living environment.

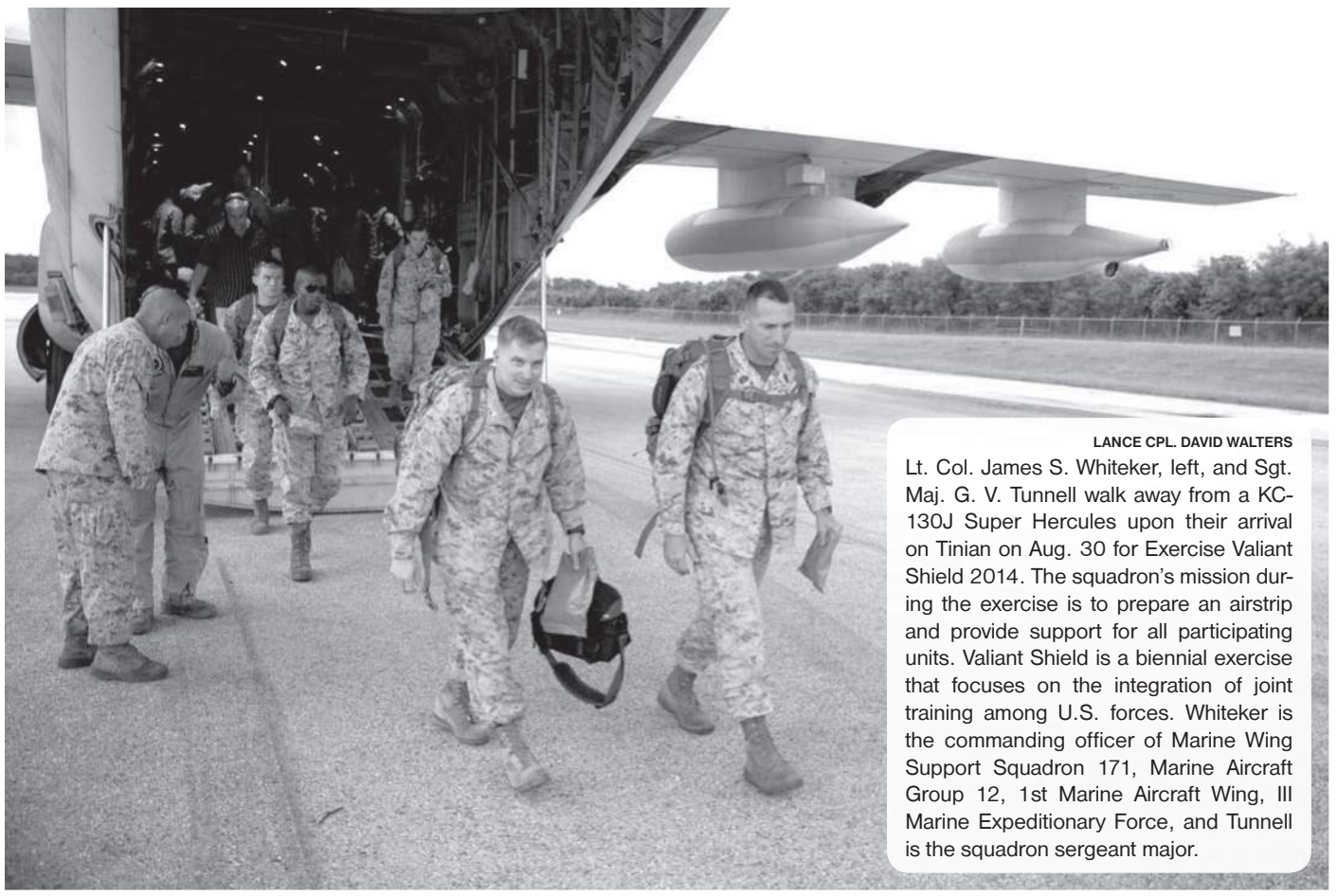
"For this mission, we are responsible for quality control," said Willey. "For this, we are making sure everything is exactly where it needs to be."

One of the missions of Marine wing support squadrons is to build forward operating bases and forward arming and refueling points, according to Wheeler.

"We are able to deploy anywhere, at any time, and establish a site where aviation ground support can support the warriors in the air," said Wheeler. "Tinian is a perfect training area to do that."

Wheeler said some of the training to take place includes air base ground defense, which is something that MWSS-171 does not have a lot of opportunities to conduct, according to Wheeler.

"171's goal here in Tinian is to exercise and exemplify what an MWSS is," said Wheeler. "We are able to deploy anywhere, at any time, and establish a site where aviation ground support can support the warriors in the air."



LANCE CPL. DAVID WALTERS
Lt. Col. James S. Whiteker, left, and Sgt. Maj. G. V. Tunnell walk away from a KC-130J Super Hercules upon their arrival on Tinian on Aug. 30 for Exercise Valiant Shield 2014. The squadron's mission during the exercise is to prepare an airstrip and provide support for all participating units. Valiant Shield is a biennial exercise that focuses on the integration of joint training among U.S. forces. Whiteker is the commanding officer of Marine Wing Support Squadron 171, Marine Aircraft Group 12, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, III Marine Expeditionary Force, and Tunnell is the squadron sergeant major.

US Pacific Command forces come together for Marianas exercise

PEARL HARBOR, Hawaii—Forces from the U.S. Pacific Command are scheduled to participate in Exercise Valiant Shield scheduled for Sept. 15-23, in Guam and around the Marianas Island Range Complex. Participants include two aircraft carriers, 19 surface ships, more than 200 aircraft and an estimated 18,000 personnel from the U.S. Army, Navy, Air Force and Marine Corps.

Valiant Shield is a U.S.-only, biennial field training exercise with a focus on integration of joint training among U.S. forces. This training enables real-world proficiency in sustaining joint forces through detecting, locating, tracking, and engaging units at sea, in the air, on land, and in cyberspace in response to a range of mission areas.

The participating forces will exercise a wide range of capabilities and demonstrate the inherent flexibility of joint forces. These capabilities range from maritime security operations to anti-submarine and air defense exercises and complex warfighting.

The lessons learned from exercises like VS14 will assist the U.S. in continuing to develop regional and global power projection capabilities that provide a full range of options to succeed in defense of its interests and those of its allies and partners around the world.

The VS series is aimed at developing a "pre-integrated" joint force built from habitual relationships. This force builds interoperable and complementary cross-domain capabilities and benefits from realistic, shared training enhancing the flexibility to develop new tactics, techniques, and procedures as operational conditions dictate. Such forces will provide the deterrence and stabilizing effects of a force-in-being, ready at the outset of a contingency without delays for buildups or extensive mission rehearsal.

This is the fifth exercise in the Valiant Shield series that began in 2006. ***(U.S. Pacific Fleet Public Affairs)***

Public can now view OVR state plan on RSA

By JAYSON CAMACHO
jayson_camacho@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The CNMI Office of Vocational Rehabilitation Services state plan can now be viewed by the public through the website of its federal grantor, the Rehabilitation Services Administration.

In a letter to CNMI OVR director Arlene Yamagata, U.S. Department of Education Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services-RSA Commissioner Janet LaBreck said that OVR's state plan will be reviewed until it is ready to be published by RSA.

"RSA acknowledges your electronic submission of the state plan, in the form of a pre-print of affirmative assurances and required attachments, was reviewed to ensure conformity with statutory provisions of the Act," LaBreck stated.

» OVR sets goal on closing 37 cases this time

Labreck also stated RSA will make CNMI grant awards available soon.

"The approved OVR state plan will be published by RSA and available to the general public on RSA's website. Those who are interested can visit the website," she stated.

OVR's state plan was approved after numerous public consultations. Forums were held June 11, 2014, for Saipan, June 9, 2014, for Tinian, and June 14, 2014, for Rota.

The plan was approved earlier in July by the State Rehabilitation Council of the CNMI.

In related news, Yamagata said as one of their state plan goals, OVR is looking to close 37 cases for continued employment of clients this new fiscal year.

Yamagata said that OVR last fiscal year closed 36 cases.

"The only time we can close a case with a client is if the help is provided and that we have provided rehabilitation services and if they have continued employment after 90 days," she said.

PSS eyes $95,000 Early Head Start grant

By DENNIS B. CHAN
dennis_chan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The CNMI has a "very good chance" of getting a $95,000 competitive federal grant to start an Early Head Start program, according to Tim Thornburg, federal programs officer for the Public Schools System.

News of whether schools get funding from these competitive grants usually come toward the end of September, Thornburg said in an interview last week.

Guam, according to what Thornburg has been told, was "not a problem" when it came to competition in the region for the grant.

"We suspect that there may be only one entity [in the region] that applied for [the grant], but we simply don't know," he said.

According to him, applications for competitive grants are submitted electronically. "We find out when we find out."

He said the grant might be divided among applicants or just awarded on a points basis and whoever "has the highest points gets it."

Thornburg confirmed that the program would essentially be a new program with a new director, staff, and other personnel and would be built on the current Head Start program's capacity.

"We have some Head Start centers with some additional space so we could co-locate [the two programs]," he said.

He said PSS' chances are "very good" based on how they have met the federal criteria for the program.

"They wanted to see at a minimum that we were serving at least 72 infants and toddlers," he added.

The PSS' Early Head Start program was developed to serve 80 infants and toddlers.

He said that based on federal visits, PSS has been praised for "very good job" in establishing a model program.

"They said, 'We would like to see you with Early Head Start.' [And] this time we're doing it," he said.

Some of the personnel required for the program, according to the Early Childhood Learning and Knowledge Center website, are education and child development, health-related, parent involvement, and disability services staff, as well as a fiscal staff and program and center directors.

ECLKC noted that a staff member could serve more than one role, provided they are qualified.

Center-based programs are required one qualified teacher for every four infants or toddlers, with maximum group size being eight infants or toddlers and their two teachers.

SCC to hold social media workshop next week

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce is hosting a three-hour workshop that will focus on social media for CNMI businesses next Tuesday, Sept. 16, from 9am to 12pm at the Marianas Business Plaza, Suite 315.

The workshop will focus on helping businesses use social media to find new customers and update existing customers regarding promotions and events.

The registration fee for SCC members is $15; for non-members, it is $25. Seating is limited to 25 participants.

"Get up-to-date on all the trending topics on social media and the benefits of using this tool to improve business from local experts," SCC executive director Jill Arenovski said.

Arenovski said that social media is changing businesses, from selling to connecting with the audience, from large campaigns to small acts, from controlling the message to transparency, and from hard-to-reach to available everywhere.

"More businesses than ever are devoting an increasing amount of resources into social media marketing. How do you determine whether those efforts are successful?" she said.

Arenovski said the guest speakers will not only tackle the ins and outs of networking using social media as a tool, but will also provide key information to help achieve a businesses goals.

For those interested, call 234-7150 or email coordinator@saipanchamber.com to reserve attendance. ***(SCC)***

Hopwood posts lowest student population in past 10 yrs.

By DENNIS B. CHAN
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REPORTER

As of Friday, the reported 755-student population of Hopwood Junior High School is the lowest the school has seen in the past 10 years.

According to the Public School System enrollment data, the last time Hopwood's population was this low was in school year 2004-2005 with 995 students.

Last year, Hopwood had 1,213 students. The year prior in 2012-2013, Hopwood had 1,192 and in 2011-2012 it had 1,258—its largest population in the last 10 years.

In 2010-2011 Hopwood had 1,216 students and in 2009-2010 it had 1,134 students.

Records indicate that 1,140 students were recorded for 2008-2009; 1,106 students for 2007-2008; 1,184 for 2006-2007; and 1,108 for 2005-2006, with Hopwood's second lowest population in 10 years was 995 in 2004-2005.

In an interview, principal Jonas Barcinas noted how Hopwood has been "overcrowded" since he became principal in 2009 as well as the years prior to that.

"There were too many kids on the campus and sometimes problems do come about… issues from fighting to drugs [and] bullying," he said.

While noting that even a small school may have these social problems, Barcinas expects an improvement from the population decrease in the classroom setting.

"It really helps our teachers breathe, and plan accordingly and have more engagement with kids," he said.

Barcinas said more attention could be given to students by his teachers with classrooms of 25 or 20, compared to last year's where there were 35 to 40 students per class.

"It becomes very difficult to attend to all the kids," he said, noting how every student has different learning abilities.

"When you have many kids, it's so hard to reach out to the lower achievers, the average achievers, the higher achievers. You need to be a dynamic teacher to ensure you are meeting the needs of everybody 100 percent," he said.

While he noted that more students might mean more funding for a school, he said "the money is not going to help you if the class is overcrowded."

Much of the decrease in population size may be attributed to the reconfiguring of several elementary schools on island into new middle schools, with San Antonio Elementary, for example, who used to send students to Hopwood for junior high, now a middle school.

According to Barcinas, Hopwood now only serves students coming from Garapan Elementary School, William S. Reyes Elementary School, and Oleai Elementary School.

He called the new middle school concept a "great idea" and he believes it would "spread the wealth of learning" and make the new middle schools more community-based as students live closer to their schools.

He also hopes for more interschool math or thespian competitions—for example—with the advent of more middle schools.

NEW LAW RESETS TIMELINE

20 percent renewable energy by 2016

Gov. Eloy S. Inos signed into law on Thursday a bill that resets a deadline for renewable energy use on or before Dec. 31, 2016. Previous deadlines and standards were unmet and the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. has yet to actually tap renewable energy sources.

House Vice Speaker Frank S. Dela Cruz's (Ind-Saipan) House Bill 18-165, Senate Draft 1 is now Public Law 18-62.

It amends the standards for the renewable energy portfolio for electrical power producers and authorizes the installation of net energy metering for all eligible residential customer-generators.

In 2006, a law was enacted setting renewable portfolio standards requiring that a percentage of electrical energy be obtained from renewable energy resources. None of the standards have been achieved.

Dela Cruz, in his bill, said renewable energy standards should be reduced to 20 percent and the time within which to achieve the standards should be extended to 2016.

Renewable energy sources are becoming readily available and more residential customers are seeking new options, even if it is at their expense, to help reduce the high costs of utility rates.

But CUC has rejected the use of net energy metering by moratorium, Dela Cruz said.

The new law allows all eligible residential customer-generators to use net metering. ***(Haidee V. Eugenio)***

Guam Guard commissions three new officers

MAJ. JOSEPHINE BLAS

Maj. Gen. Benny M. Paulino, The Adjutant General of the Guam National Guard, administers the oath of office during the Commissioning Ceremony for three new officers in the Guam National Guard. From left to right: Maj. Gen. Paulino, 2nd Lt. David Brantley, 2nd Lt. Gregory May, and 2nd Lt. Alisha Oilouch.

JOINT FORCE HEADQUARTERS, Guam—Three new officers were commissioned by Maj. Gen. Benny M. Paulino, The Adjutant General of the Guam National Guard, during a ceremony on Thursday, Sept. 4, at the Guam Army National Guard Readiness Center.

The new officers recently completed months of training under the Reserve Component Officer Candidate School course, which included a tough eight weeks at Fort Meade, South Dakota last month.

Lt. Col. Reolito Jao, commander, 203rd Regional Training Institute, encouraged the new officers to "find a mentor that will provide guidance and direction to help achieve goals. Mentors also provide good advice and groom you to be better officers as you move up the ranks."

The new officers began Phase 0 of the OCS Program about 11 months ago and were taught in a high-stress environment that was mostly run by the members of the Guam Army National Guard's 203rd RTI.

The new officers are 2nd Lieutenants David Brantley, Gregory May, and Alisha Oilouch. All three were previously enlisted members in the U.S. Air Force Reserve, the U.S. Marine Corps, and the Guam Army National Guard.

"Great leaders listen and listen carefully. Your ability to understand other perspectives will depend on your ability to listen," said Col. Roderick Leon Guerrero, Chief of Joint staff, and keynote speaker. "The strength of the group lies in the strength of its leader. As a leader, your love of knowledge and physical fitness will determine how strong your Soldiers will perform." Col. Leon Guerrero also reminded the new officers to "remain humble, yet confident."

The last portion of the program, about eight weeks long, was spent at the Fort Meade OCS training center in Fort Meade, South Dakota, run by the 196th Regiment's 1st Battalion (Officer Candidate School).

Paulino congratulated the new officers for "successfully completing the many months of physically strenuous and mentally tough training, which is designed to prepare you for the next phase of your career—as leaders in the best, most lethal armed forces in the world—the United States military. Today, we need leaders to manage our forces in this dangerous and complex 21st century environment. We need an Army that is more expeditionary, joint, rapidly deployable, flexible and adaptive."

"We need leaders who can focus on developing our soldiers. I believe leaders like you are absolutely key to achieving success in any and all of today's missions. You all come from a variety of backgrounds and the breadth and depth of the experiences in this class is impressive," added Paulino.

Prior to their commission, Brantley was a master sergeant in the U.S. Air Force Reserve's 44th Aerial Port Squadron; May was a sergeant with the U.S. Marine Corps' 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit. He enlisted into the Guam Army National Guard as a specialist and was assigned to the 1-294th Infantry Regiment. Oilouch was specialist with the Guam Army National Guard's 1224th Engineer Support Company.

"As new leaders, I propose to you this challenge," said Paulino. "Dedicate yourself to a life of learning, seek to be decisive, creative and adaptive, learn to be efficient communicators, be open to the experiences of your senior enlisted soldiers, earning their loyalty and trust, and most importantly, demonstrate character and integrity in everything that you do, whether in or out of uniform."

Brantley is branched in the Transportation Corps, May will be an Infantry Officer, and Oilouch will be in the Ordnance Corps.

Many family members and friends of each of the new officers, as well as dozens of Guam Guard soldiers and airmen were in attendance. ***(PR)***

Int'l Festival of Cultures to feature 18 cultures

Representatives of 18 cultures are confirmed to join the Marianas Visitors Authority's inaugural International Festival of Cultures on Saturday, Sept. 13.

Organized in conjunction with the Commonwealth Council for Arts & Culture and PDM Promoters, the festival will be staged for four consecutive Saturdays at the Paseo de Marianas pedestrian mall in Garapan.

Confirmed cultural participants will represent Chamorros and Carolinians of the Northern Mariana Islands, Kosrae, Palau, Chuuk, Japan, Bangladesh, Korea, China, the Philippines, Samoa, Tonga, Fiji, Hawaii, New Zealand, Tahiti, Marquesas, and Cook Islands.

"We're encouraged by the strong show of support for our local groups," said MVA Community Projects manager Martin Duenas. "The International Festival of Cultures is going to be a great way for visitors and residents to experience the rich cultural diversity of our island population. The stage performances will change every 15 minutes, so there will an excellent opportunity to enjoy entertainment from a wide variety of cultures."

Slated for Sept. 13, 20, and 27 and Oct. 4, 2014, on each night various cultural groups from the Pacific and Asia will showcase their heritage through performing arts, cuisine, and arts and crafts. Demonstration booths will feature basket weaving, *mwar*-making (floral head lei), storyboard carving, origami paper folding, and more.

In addition, a parade of cultures will be held on Oct. 4 at 5:30pm in Garapan from the Carolinian Affairs Office north along Beach Road to American Memorial Park, ending at Coral Tree Ave.

Booths will open at 5pm. Performances begin at 6pm and the event will run until 11pm. Admission is free and open to the public. ***(MVA)***

Guam water authority loses testing certification

HAGATNA, Guam (AP)—Guam's Environmental Protection Agency is taking away the water authority's certification to test drinking water for total coliform and E. coli.

The Pacific Daily News reports the authority failed to identify a sample as positive for E. coli during recent proficiency tests.

Guam EPA Administrator Eric Palacios said Friday the agency has been working with the Guam Waterworks Authority to make sure its laboratory can regain its certification.

The agency will also run periodic samples for quality control.

Palacios says reliable laboratory reports are critical for ensuring safe water.

Coliforms and E. coli are bacteria. Their presence indicates the water may be contaminated with human or animal waste.

Microbes in these wastes may cause diarrhea, cramps, nausea, headaches or other symptoms.

More lawmakers back Pai for 2nd term at OPA

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

More lawmakers are supporting Public Auditor Michael Pai's reappointment, adding that Gov. Eloy S. Inos would have a tough job justifying replacing Pai in an election year and given Pai's independence and integrity in going after those who committed corruption and other wrongdoings in public office.

Rep. Anthony Benavente (Ind-Saipan) said yesterday he is also backing House Vice Speaker Frank Dela Cruz's (Ind-Saipan) plan of introducing a legislative initiative making the public auditor post an elected one similar to an attorney general if Pai is not reappointed.

Benavente pointed out that even if Pai was appointed by former governor Benigno R. Fitial in 2008, that didn't deter Pai and the whole Office of the Public Auditor from pursuing Fitial, along with his then-attorney general Edward T. Buckingham, for corruption and other wrongdoings allegations. Buckingham was found guilty of corruption charges.

» Some wonders governor's move when Legislature rejects another appointee

"That shows Pai has independence and integrity. He holds officials accountable for their actions," Benavente said.

Pai

Rep. Christopher Leon Guerrero (Ind-Saipan), chairman of the House Committee on Judiciary and Government Operations, said last night that while the decision to reappoint or replace Pai rests with the governor, it would be tough for the governor to get lawmakers' support, given some members' position on the matter.

"What happens if the Legislature rejects the governor's public auditor appointee if it's not Mr. Pai?" Leon Guerrero asked.

He believes that having an appointed public auditor works for the CNMI, given that Pai was a Fitial appointee yet that didn't stop OPA under his leadership from looking into Fitial's alleged corrupt actions while CNMI governor.

Fitial was the first CNMI governor to be impeached by the House of Representatives for corruption, felony, and neglect of duty. Fitial resigned days before the start of his impeachment trial at the Senate. A corruption case against Fitial is still ongoing, with OPA's legal counsel George Hasselback as special prosecutor.

"Again, I believe there is no reason for Pai to not be reappointed but the decision rests with the governor. The governor might have plans. We respect the governor's authority," Leon Guerrero said.

Other lawmakers previously expressed support to Pai.

On Monday, Pai told *Saipan Tribune* he is committed to a second term if the governor reappoints him.

The governor confirmed Saturday he has checked a few individuals for the public auditor's post, but clarified that he has not decided yet whether to reappoint or replace Pai.

Pai's six-year term as CNMI public auditor ends on Oct. 26, just a few days before the Nov. 4 general elections.

Concerned citizen Glen Hunter said it is his sincere belief that had Pai not been the CNMI public auditor, there is a strong chance Fitial would still be the sitting governor "with Inos still sitting by him."

"No other public authority rose to challenge the abuses of public trust committed by Fitial other than that of OPA under Pai's guidance. When other public officials ignored the people's calls for justice, Pai's team took the lead in a valiant attempt to restore integrity in our government," Hunter added.

Guam Air Guard SFS teams prepare to deploy

An airman fires a weapon during predeployment training.
MAJ. JOSEPHINE BLAS

JOINT FORCE HEADQUARTERS, Guam—The 254th Security Forces Squadron of the Guam Air National Guard received an alert order in April for teams of airmen to deploy later this year in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

Overseas deployments continue for the Guam Air National Guard with almost 30 members of the 254th SFS currently mobilized for training and scheduled to depart in support of Operation Enduring Freedom this fall.

The alert followed the return of a team of SFS airmen from Al Udeid AB, Qatar, in March, where they were deployed.

The airmen were officially placed on active-duty status in July and began predeployment training to include mounted patrols, dismounted patrols, collapsible baton skills, law enforcement skills, and weapons qualifications, according to Capt. Alvin Alvarez, who served as the 254th SFS team commander during the previous deployment.

"The deployment proves the reliability and relevance of the members of the Guam Guard," said Maj. Gen. Benny M. Paulino, The Adjutant General for the Guam National Guard.

The airmen will be deployed to undisclosed locations in Southwest Asia where they are tasked to support the Air Force's Air and Space Expeditionary Force mission in Southwest Asia. The tasking falls under the Air Force Central Command where the airmen will be primarily focused on the provision of base defense measures, inclusive of personnel and resource security.

Airmen apprehend and secure a suspect during predeployment training.
MAJ. JOSEPHINE BLAS

"As we've done in the past, we seek the continued support of our community and our employers. And I especially want to stress the appreciation for the tremendous support our members have already received over the years," he added.

The 254th SFS has deployed several teams over the years in support of OIF and OEF with this being their 7th deployment. ***(PR)***

Guam employers to be honored with DOD awards

In an effort to support local businesses that employ members of the National Guard and Reserve members, the Guam-CNMI Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve will hold an Employer Awards Recognition Luncheon to honor employers, for extraordinary support of its employee-service members who service in the National Guard and Reserve, during a recognition ceremony on Thursday, Sept. 11, at 10:30am, at the Sheraton Guam.

This event, themed "We all Serve," continues to reign true, especially in regards to employers in Guam. "It's fitting that it is done on the anniversary of the 9-11 attacks on America," said David Sablan, state chair of the ESGR Guam-CNMI Committee. "Employers have sacrificed to allow their employees to serve in the Guard and Reserve and protect our island and nation."

ESGR is a Department of Defense agency, established in 1972, under the auspices of the Secretary of Defense for Reserve Affairs. The mission of ESGR is to gain and maintain active support from all public and private employers for the men and women of the National Guard and Reserve by advocating relevant initiatives, recognizing outstanding support, increasing awareness of the law, and resolving conflicts between employers and service members.

The Department of Defense Patriot Award was created by ESGR to publicly recognize individuals who provide outstanding patriotic support and cooperation to their employees, who like the citizen warriors before them, have answered their nation's call to serve. These outstanding employers were nominated by their Reserve Component employee for being highly supportive. Supportive supervisors are critical to maintaining the strength and readiness of the nation's Guard and Reserve units."

By law, employers must hold jobs for men and women who serve in the Guard and Reserve when they get called to duty. This allows service members to focus on the mission so they can safely return back home.

Over 200 of Guam's outstanding and supportive employers were invited to this recognition luncheon where they will receive their awards, a small gift and enjoy a great meal. ***(ESGR)***

Yamashita thanks United for its allegiance to Guam, Micronesia

At the invitation of United Airlines Corporate Leadership, Sen. Aline Yamashita, Ph.D., met with Sam Shinohara, managing director, Business Development Asia/Pacific; and Public Relations manager Regine Lee, to discuss the airline's ongoing efforts to improve services for Guam and Micronesia.

Yamashita thanked United Airlines for "not shying away from the public's call for attention to ongoing questions surrounding the mechanical integrity and customer service of United Airlines servicing our families and those who transit through Guam to reach their final destinations."

"United Airline's efforts in responding to the concerns of its passengers and the professional development needs of its employees are prioritized. The competitive nature of the airline industry, the decisions driven by passenger counts from Guam, the change outcomes resulting from being domestic versus international are better understood. Much change—from in-flight service to familiar, caring flight crews to club locations—seemingly all at once—is hard for us who pay a great deal of money. However, the facts that United maintains a hub on Guam, provides economic opportunity to more than 1,000 local employees, provides medical transport off-island, and contributes hundreds of thousands of dollars to non-profit initiatives demonstrates their belief in our island. Sam's assurance that customer service was a top training priority and that flight safety was a continuous objective had me thanking him for remaining and growing on Guam. Families First! wish United Airlines the best," said Yamashita. ***(PR)***

United donates roundtrip tickets to US for Green Gala

As part of their commitment to conservation in our islands and in our skies, United recently donated two roundtrip tickets from Saipan to anywhere they fly in the United States to the Micronesia Islands Nature Alliance. The donation was made as part of MINA's annual fundraising event, the Green Gala, which will be held on Friday, Sept. 19, at Fiesta Resort and Spa.

"We are very excited about United's contribution to the Green Gala. The donation of the tickets to the United States raises the anticipation for this year's event," said Frankie Eliptico, chairperson of MINA's board of directors. "One ticket will be featured at the Green Gala, while the other ticket will be used to bring a speaker to Saipan to share information with the community. We are grateful for United's commitment to MINA's work and island conservation and happy to welcome them as an Emerald sponsor."

The leading conservation nonprofit organization in the Commonwealth, MINA has successfully implemented many projects, including the Obyan Rehabilitation Project, the Teacher Environmental Camp, the Marine Debris Prevention program, Tasi Watch Project, and the Adopt-A-Bin Project, which has placed recycle bins at all the major beaches on the island. The organization is supported by project grants and from generous contributions from local businesses and community members.

In order to continue its efforts to preserve and protect the CNMI's fragile environment and biodiversity, MINA is seeking the community's participation in the Green Gala event.

In addition to lively entertainment, dinner and a variety of beverages, the Green Gala will feature brief highlights from MINA's projects, a silent auction, and many other activities that promises a memorable evening.

Last year's Green Gala was sold out, so organizers are encouraging those who plan to attend to buy their tickets early.

Tickets for the Green Gala event can be purchased at the MINA Office in Gualo Rai or from any of the volunteer board members.

There are four categories of sponsorship (Emerald, Title, Major, and Sponsor categories) that correspond to the value of companies' contribution. To become a sponsor of the event, contact Brooke Nevitt or Becky Sablan at 233-REEF (7333), or email castro.fran@gmail.com. ***(MINA)***

Public input sought on proposed visitor center for Marianas Trench Monument

The Marianas Trench Monument Advisory Council is hosting public meetings to gather ideas and suggestions from CNMI residents regarding the purpose, location, and potential funding options for a Marianas Trench Marine National Monument visitor center.

"These sessions will ensure the local voice of the CNMI people will be heard when we provide our recommendations to the Federal government on why, where, and how the visitor center is to be built," said Advisory Council chair Ben Sablan. "This visitor center is an important legacy for future generations. The vision for the visitor center must be one that clearly represents the public interest. As such, we want to hear from you."

"During the past two years, members of the MTMAC have spent considerable thought and time on the purpose, location, and financing options for the visitor center," said Arnold Palacios, advisory council member, Visitor Center working group chair, and Department of Land Natural Resources Secretary. "At this stage, we want to invite and ensure the community's goals, visions, and shared interests are included in the recommendations provided to our federal government partners."

During the past few years, potential locations for a visitor center have been proposed. In April 2013, the CNMI Legislature issued a joint resolution recommending the center be built at Marpi, citing ease of both tourist and resident access. Later, Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) advocated the visitor center be built on Rota to boost ecotourism. Others urged for the visitor center to be built on or near the Northern Marianas College campus.

The MTMAC hopes that these meetings will result in recommendations that represent a cross-section of the community. Recommendations will be reviewed by NOAA and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and will be used in the monument management planning processes. When necessary funding is secured, the formal process of design, application, and permitting of the proposed visitor center will begin.

Meetings will be held on Tinian on Sept. 16 at the Fleming Hotel; on Saipan on Sept. 17 at the American Memorial Park, and on Rota on Sept. 22 at the Mayor's Office. Each session will begin at 6pm and last two hours.

For more information on the MTMAC meetings, call DLNR at 664-6000. ***(DLNR)***

40 FOR 40 GIVEAWAY CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Pacifica Insurance Underwriters Inc. staff member Samantha Sikayun, left, presents a certificate for a free year of insurance to the company's 40 for 40 Giveaway 13th prize winner Marina Atalig, right. Forty for 40 is a giveaway promotion designed to thank the CNMI and Pacifica's loyal patrons for 40 years of business—40 winners for a year of free insurance in celebration of 40 years. Last drawing is slated for Dec. 15. For information about Pacifica's 40 for 40 giveaway, log on to www.pacificains.com/fortyforforty or call 234-6267/7722/7310. Rest assured, CNMI.

Judge approves $2.4M settlement with Hawaii farms for over 500 Thai workers

LOS ANGELES—U.S. District Judge Leslie E. Kobayashi in Hawaii has approved settlements between the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission and four Hawaii farms totaling $2.4 million for about 500 Thai farmworker victims of national origin discrimination and retaliation, the EEOC announced Friday. The settlement encompasses monetary relief, options for jobs and benefits, housing, other reimbursements of expenses, and sweeping injunctive relief remedies. The four farms are Mac Farms of Hawaii, LLC [nka MF Nut Co., LLC]; Kauai Coffee Company, Inc., [nka McBryde Resources, Inc.]; Kelena Farms, Inc. and Captain Cook Coffee Company, Ltd.

The EEOC initially filed suit in U.S. District Court for the District of Hawaii in April 2011 against farm labor contractor Global Horizons and six farms in Hawaii on behalf of the Thai farmworkers. (EEOC v. Global Horizons, Inc. d/b/a Global Horizons Manpower, Inc., Captain Cook Coffee Co., Ltd., Del Monte Fresh Produce (Hawaii), Inc., Kauai Coffee Company, Inc., Kelena Farms, Inc., Mac Farms of Hawaii, LLC, Maui Pineapple Co., et al, Case No. CV-11-00257-LEK- RLP). One of the farms, Del Monte Fresh Produce, already settled for $1.2 million in November 2013.

In March 2014, Kobayashi ruled that Beverly Hills, Calif.-based Global Horizons was liable for the pattern or practice of harassing, discriminating against, and retaliating against hundreds of Thai farmworkers in the U.S. based on their national origin and race, in violation of federal anti-discrimination laws. The EEOC named the farms in Hawaii as defendants, asserting that they were joint employers with the labor contractor, and liable due to the acts committed by Global Horizons. Global Horizons and Maui Pineapple Company remain as the only defendants left in the case, although default judgments were entered by the court.

"We worked and lived under terrible conditions, treated like animals in a cage," said Phirom Krinsoongnoen, one of the victimized Thai farmworkers. "We were housed in an overcrowded place with a few rooms but many workers, and threatened almost daily. I am grateful that the EEOC is here to help people like me."

The EEOC alleged that Thai farmworkers were contracted through Global Horizons to work at the farms sometime between 2003 and 2007 under the H2-A temporary visa program, which required the farmworkers to be provided food and housing aside from pay for work performed. Exorbitant recruitment fees placed the Thai workers into a situation of debt bondage early on. Workers were then subjected to varying degrees of denial or delay of pay; had their movements monitored and passports confiscated; had production quotas imposed that did not apply to non-Thai workers; were denied adequate food and water; and forced into unsanitary, overcrowded living conditions. Those who complained of the pattern or practice of discrimination and harassment were retaliated against, with many forced to quit or flee as a result, the EEOC said.

» Laborers kept in debt bondage, housed in unsanitary facilities, threatened, and denied adequate food and water, federal agency charged

"This resolution reflects this agency's redoubled effort to challenge discriminatory practices against the most vulnerable workers who often live and work in the shadows of the economy," said EEOC General Counsel David Lopez. "This case strikes a blow at one of the root causes of human trafficking—discrimination based on prohibited bases."

All this alleged conduct violates Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. The EEOC filed suit after first attempting to reach pre-litigation settlements through its conciliation process.

As part of the four consent decrees finalized Friday, Mac Farms will pay $1.6 million, Kauai Coffee will pay $425,000, Kelena Farms will pay $275,000 and Captain Cook Coffee will pay $100,000 directly to the victims. As such, the total direct monetary relief recovered is $2.4 million. In addition, Kelena Farms offered full-time jobs with generous benefits, profit-sharing and 401(k) plan options, while Captain Cook Coffee offered seasonal jobs, benefits, transportation, and housing for workers during the term of their decrees. The offers extended by Kelena and Captain Cook, valued at nearly $4.9 million, add to the direct monetary settlements over the duration of the consent decrees. The EEOC will monitor the terms of the job offers.

Sweeping injunctive relief approved by the judge in all of these consent decrees will ensure that farms and farm labor contractors disseminate policies and procedures prohibiting discrimination to their local workforce and to H2-A guest workers in a language they understand; conduct audits to ensure FLC compliance with the consent decree; designate a corporate compliance officer for oversight of FLCs and Title VII compliance; train managers, supervisors and employees on their obligations under Title VII; and report to the EEOC and maintain records.

Anna Y. Park, regional attorney for the EEOC's Los Angeles District, said, "We can now move forward with ensuring that the claimants in this case get justice. We also hope that the injunctive relief entered into with the farms will ensure proper hiring and monitoring of farm labor contractors in the agricultural industry. We all have a responsibility to ensure that the most vulnerable workers are not denied basic human dignity and life-sustaining water and food. Farms and farm labor contractors—and the supervisors who represent them—must ensure that their workers' civil rights remain intact, no matter their race or the country they come from."

Eliminating discriminatory policies affecting vulnerable workers who may be unaware of their rights under equal employment laws or reluctant or unable to exercise them is one of six national priorities identified by the EEOC's Strategic Enforcement Plan. These policies can include disparate pay, job segregation, harassment and human trafficking.

The EEOC enforces federal laws prohibiting employment discrimination. Further information about the EEOC is available on its web site at www.eeoc.gov. ***(EEOC)***

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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EDITORIAL

Abortion regulations are about denying rights, not protecting health

Many of the regulations on abortion now cropping up in states across the country are being passed off as attempts to protect women's health. But what they are really intended to do is to continue the long-running war on women's reproductive rights that unfortunately did not end with *Roe vs. Wade* 40 years ago. In fact, these new laws could actually harm women's health by delaying their access to a legal, safe procedure.

Some states have passed laws requiring that abortion providers have hospital admitting privileges, and some federal courts, to their credit, have blocked those unnecessary measures. Last week, for instance, a federal judge in Louisiana blocked one that would have gone into effect Monday.

An even more common tactic of antiabortion legislators these days is to require that clinics meet the structural standards of ambulatory surgical centers. Such laws have been passed or enacted in 23 states, most since 2011. Last Friday, U.S. District Judge Lee Yeakel blocked a portion of one in Texas—a costly and unnecessary measure that would have shut down more than half the state's abortion clinics, leaving at most eight in place. Yeakel said the law would leave so many women 100 or even 200 miles from the closest clinic that the practical effect would be "a complete ban on abortion."

Beyond cutting off access to abortion, these laws also unfairly single out abortion for more regulation than other medical procedures of similar or greater risk. As Yeakel wrote, abortion is "much safer, in terms of minor and serious complications, than many common medical procedures not subject to such intense regulation and scrutiny."

More than 90 percent of abortions performed in the United States are done in outpatient settings, with a less than 0.3 percent risk of major complications requiring hospitalization, according to an amicus brief filed by the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists in a lawsuit challenging the Texas law. The risk of major complications from first-trimester abortions is even less: 0.05 percent. Yet state lawmakers are subjecting the procedure to more regulation than some involving general anesthesia, which a first-trimester abortion virtually never requires. Colonoscopies can be done in doctors' offices, yet the mortality rate of that procedure is 34.5 per 100,000. That's 40 times the mortality rate of abortion in the United States from 2000 to 2009, which was 0.67 per 100,000. Dental extractions, vasectomies, skin biopsies and gastrointestinal endoscopies can all be done in doctors' offices, and all carry similar or greater risks of complications than abortion does.

It's crucial that the courts handling challenges to these laws realize that they are not grounded in legitimate concerns about a woman's risk during abortion. They are designed to thwart her attempt to get one.

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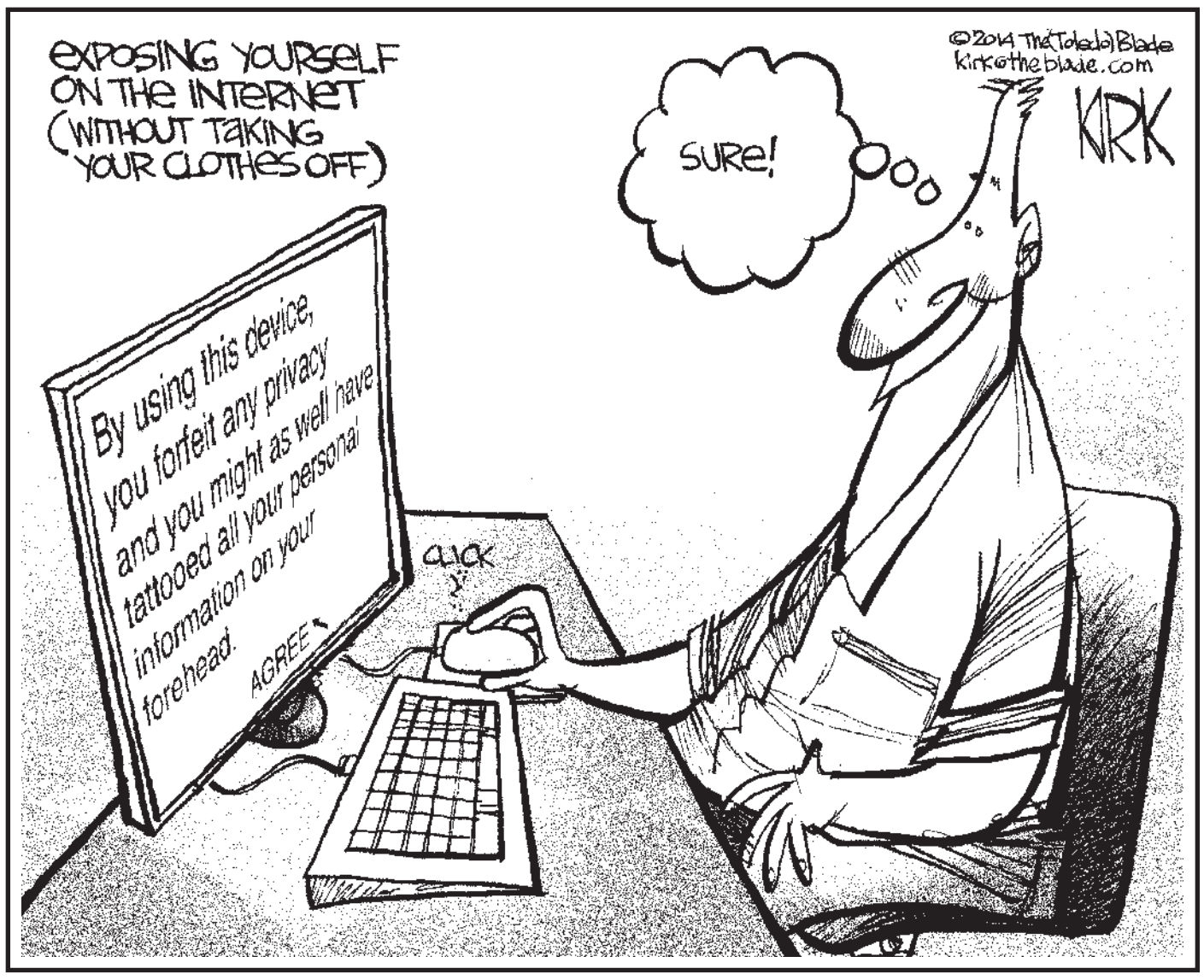
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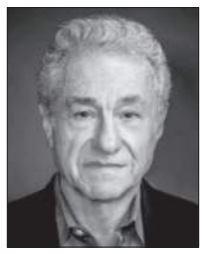
Is economic stagnation the new normal?



By GAR ALPEROVITZ
Los Angeles Times

Gar Alperovitz is the author of What Then Must We Do? Straight Talk About the Next American Revolution *and co-founder of the Democracy Collaborative. He wrote this for the* Los Angeles Times.

The concept of "secular stagnation"—that the economy may be facing a protracted period of low growth and high unemployment—has been seeping back into economic and policy discourse. Once relegated to the margins of heterodox economic theory, the idea of stagnation as a likely ongoing direction for the economy, in fact, is now virtually mainstream, expounded by such well-known figures as Lawrence Summers and Paul Krugman.

Stagnation, however, is not a new problem. Careful examination of the U.S. economy over the last century suggests that stagnation may not be the exception but just possibly the rule of modern economic performance—a rule that was mainly broken only by the stimulus effects of massive military expenditures at three crucial junctures.

Major economic floundering in the first quarter of the 20th century was relieved by the boost World War I gave to the economy, and the tremendous economic collapse in the second quarter was ended by World War II's huge increase in military spending. In the third quarter, the Korean War, the Cold War and the Vietnam War added major stimulus at key times.

Moreover, several of the indirect consequences of World War II—including wartime savings, the compression of wages, the strengthening of unions, the GI Bill that educated millions of veterans, and the reconstruction of Europe, together with the fact that major competitors had been temporarily destroyed by war—all contributed to the third quarter's great economic boom.

The modern trend, despite Iraq, Afghanistan and other smaller-scale wars, is also clear. Defense expenditures declined decade by decade from a Korean War high of 13.8% of the economy in 1953 to 3.7% in the 2000s, with steadily reduced economic impact. The financial bubbles in the late 1980s, 1990s and early 2000s produced only partial and highly unstable upswings that masked the underlying decline.

The notion that stagnation is far more important than is commonly understood has been bolstered by Thomas Piketty's landmark book "Capital in the Twenty-First Century," which also emphasizes just how unusual the era of the Depression and two world wars was. Piketty's analysis suggests that the high growth rates of the post-World War II period were, by and large, an aberration. "Many people think that growth ought to be at least 3 or 4 percent a year," he wrote. "Both history and logic show this to be illusory."

Viewed in this light, the latest long-range projections from the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, the Paris-based intergovernmental group for advanced economies, make for sobering reading. In a new report, "Policy Challenges for the Next 50 Years," the OECD warns that economic growth in the world's advanced industrial economies—including Europe, North America and Japan—will likely slow even further from historic levels over the next half-century, while inequality will rocket to new heights and climate change will take an increasingly damaging toll on world GDP.

According to the projections, the OECD member nations' annual average contribution to global GDP growth will steadily fall from 1.19% this decade to 0.54% between 2050 and 2060. Meanwhile, inequality in these countries may rise as much as 30% or more.

The OECD projections are, if anything, optimistic, since they assume that Europe and the United States each will absorb in the neighborhood of 50 million new immigrants over this period—an assumption that may run contrary to the restrictive politics of immigration playing out on both sides of the Atlantic.

The economic remedy for stagnation is relatively straightforward—in theory: Faltering demand could be offset by large-scale government spending on infrastructure, education and other much-needed investments. In practice, however, it is painfully clear that large-scale Keynesian policies of this kind are no longer politically viable.

The implications of the emerging possibility of a sustained period of stagnation are profound. Through the repeated economic downturns of recent U.S. history—11 since 1945 alone—the expectation of eventual sustained recovery has been the critical assumption underpinning both politics and policy. An era of stagnation would undermine the economic basis of traditional political hope of both left and right. It would mean ongoing high unemployment, ongoing deficits, ongoing struggles to fund public programs and, in all probability, ongoing and intensified political deadlock and wrangling as unemployment continues, deficits increase and a profound battle over narrowing economic possibilities sets in.

If stagnation is the new normal, we will likely be forced to reassess the fundamental assumptions of politics and the economy and to ultimately get serious about restructuring our faltering economic system in more far-reaching ways than most Americans have contemplated.

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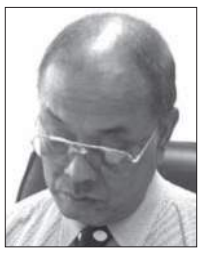
Employing realistic prism



By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.
Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune *and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands.*

Casino: There's published literature issued by the Citizens for Cleaner CNMI that had some very revealing and pertinent information all must read. You'll get a clear understanding of the invisible tentacles or events that unfolded culminating in the seemingly coincidental exclusive casino license for Best Sunshine.

The depth of the material shows it was thoroughly researched and offers time for us to review and recapture what's ours in recharting the future of these isles. It's all fact-based information!

There's the date when BS, a food company, declared it was moving into the gaming industry. It commanded a whopping windfall of some $1.5 billion in its stocks shown in graphic illustration. The announcement and huge gain came while there's no casino measure here as yet. It leaves the issue to speculation and suspicion. This was preceded by a visit to Hong Kong and Macau by NMI officials reportedly searching for investments. Did any of them have any inkling of the magnitude of the investments or do they know what entails investments?

Can casino strengthen our cultural traditions and deeply rooted value system or wouldn't it be the single most destructive force against indigenous culture? Do you see why pro-casino legislators should have used what's known as "contextual emotional intelligence" where they reflect upon the effects of long-term issues? But they ignored thoughtful review in favor of the instant soba mindset.

And so a food firm was selected to run a casino operation here. Wasn't the lack of business experience (credibility issue) sufficient to raise eyebrows or call "time out"? Why didn't our men of infinitesimal wisdom see this egregious anomaly? Were you folks too busy giving away our future for 30 silvers committing an omission of fiduciary responsibility? Or is it more a case of loss of neurons—dead brain cells—known as apoptosis?

The material pointed out that every place where casino exists charges taxes, e.g., Macau, 39 percent; Manila, 25 percent; Singapore, 15 percent; Tinian/Rota, 10-11 percent; Saipan exclusive casino, ZERO! Isn't backroom hard counting where the money is and shouldn't BS be paying at least $50 million in fees per year? It's mind numbing the purported purposeful omission of fiduciary duty on this score. It must be one superb wining and dining as to force neuron paralysis at a time public officials should be on full guard protecting the interest of these isles. They didn't!

The researched figures show how the taxpayers would be subsidizing BS for the next 40 years. Is this the vision of pro-casino public officials—drain the last pennies from family wallets and purses including poor food stamps recipients—so it is donated to ensure the future operations of BS?

Remember how the State of Delaware had to subsidize by some $8.5 million per year its casino to ensure jobs for 8,500 employees because nearby competition compromised the so-called "projected" revenue? Isn't Atlantic City closing two more casinos at the end of the month because they are "unprofitable?" Hello! Anybody home?

Masters vs. servants: "We the people" know we've elected what's ostensibly known as "public servants." This prompted my efforts to understand the root of chaos in the review and consideration of public policy where public officials have no respect for the limits of the exercise of power.

"Public officials—who are supposed to be our public servants—routinely behave as if they are our masters. They reject the confines of the Constitution, they don't believe that our rights are inalienable, and they fail to see the dangerous path down which they are leading us." It's a sure path to an authoritarian government.

The purposeful use of the cloak of ignorance and arrogance aren't a ticket to bypass the sentiment of the silent majority who, through direct representation or plebiscite, said "no" to casino twice. It is the silent majority with gravitas—integrity—who has every intention to recapturing what belongs to "we the people." Like last midterm election, "we the people" would be roaring back once more! Enough is enough!

You impeached a former governor for a non-existent power contract. Shouldn't you also be busying yourselves preparing multiple impeachment charges that include you? Whatever happened to your pronouncement of transparency? Isn't transparency the disinfectant for corruption? Or have you been infected by refusing treatment from your own medicine?

Reality check: It's good to be optimistic of casino revenue if it is within a rock's throw of real revenue reality. MVA says the casino integrated plan could provide a whopping $1.8 billion in windfall. Excellent! Even I have included that view in my Wish List of Optimism 2015, salivating. I know it isn't forthcoming anytime soon. With infrastructure deficit, it's a pipe dream at best, longest yawn at worse!

Infrastructure: Be it northern or southern Saipan, villagers will be there to give you a "wake up" call on robbing the community of water, power, and sewer! Is it hard understanding that in order to get to "C" you need to pass by "B"?

Ironic that in subsequent pages of the same edition (Monday, Sept. 1) was a story of Atlantic City shutting down two more casinos including the loss of 5,000 jobs.

Purchasing power: Forget about minimum wage and focus on the real cost of living here. This cost should realistically reflect wage and salary. In Hawaii, the strength of the dollar is about $.85.

What's the strength of the dollar here where everything is about quadruple the cost of basically everything? Is it anywhere near $.10 to $.30 per dollar? What's the wisdom of giving people minimum wage jobs but had to go to NAP Office and sign up for food stamps? Are you getting my drift?

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Be sensitive to local sentiments

I take exception to the doling out of public land without regard to infrastructure, planning, public spaces, and public input. When the government put out its first call for casinos, it emphasized a mega-resort to be located somewhere in one place, presumably to be supported by new infrastructure and away from the main population. Now both the government and Best Sunshine are looking at several locations, Garapan included, where infrastructure exists but is already severely taxed.

In the process of reviewing locations, Best Sunshine is reportedly eyeing Kan Pacific, leased by a long-time Japanese developer. The Commonwealth needs a diversity of investment from the United States, Japan, Korea, China, and Russia but we cannot forget that our tourism industry was built on Japanese investment and this country, with which we have a long history, and is only three hours away. The CNMI went from 600,000 visitors from Japan to a mere 150,000 today for many reasons including, some suggest, because our advertising dollars are steered in another direction. First went Japan Airlines, quickly followed by other investments. Interestingly, the Japanese tourist market has not recovered in the CNMI but Guam's remains strong.

Yesterday the administration announced that all these public land leases are in the public interest, meaning the casino development is in the public interest but there are thousands who might disagree with this assessment. The casino process was seriously flawed from the start. The casino legislation was defective and the problems not fixed by subsequent amendments. If anything, the questionable nature of the entire enterprise was made more evident by the efficiency and speed with which opposing initiatives were killed.

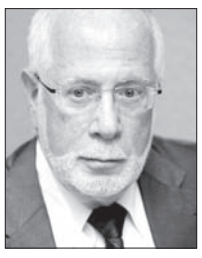
And now, to make matters worse, the Department of Public Lands is being asked to process any and all requests submitted by the casino developer and its partners for whatever piece of public land deemed of use to them. What is scary is the lightening speed with which this is being accomplished—and in the name of public purpose. Public purpose might mean a cultural museum, parks, wetland development, or drainage projects in Garapan where flodding is a very real safety, environmental and health concern.

There is an election pending and the administration wants all these deals cemented before November. It seems they are all in a rush because it is an election year and the timelines are connected with Best Sunshine's pay out of millions of dollars "in consultation with the governor," according to company pamphlets and recent news articles.

We urge Best Sunshine to conduct itself in a manner consistent with the wishes of the general public. Be sensitive to local sentiments about the use of public land, infrastructure needs and public input.

Juan S. (Santiago) Tenorio
Dandan, Saipan

Patient's suicide leaves haunting questions



By HANK SCHWARTZ
The Hartford Courant

Hank Schwartz is psychiatrist in chief and vice president of behavioral health at the Institute of Living/Hartford Hospital. He wrote this for the Hartford Courant.

I lost a patient to suicide.

It was many years ago, but I still cringe with a sense of loss, failure and even shame every time I think about it. And I think about it often.

Mr. P was in his 60s, an executive who had been hospitalized for depression. He was better now, discharged from the hospital and returning to see me as an outpatient and denying the suicidal impulses that led to his admission. Denying it consistently until that one moment when he let his guard down, looked me straight in the eye and said, "You know, doc, I could really do it."

It was a chilling psychotherapy moment, which I will never forget, but it passed quickly. He backed down immediately, protesting, "Oh, but you know I wouldn't really. I couldn't—and I would tell you if I really started thinking about it more." No matter how hard I dug, I could not get past this denial. But his warning stands out in retrospect as a cry for help that even he could not silence—the tip, perhaps, of an iceberg of desperation and hopelessness that he worked so hard to hide from me.

Psychiatrists weigh many factors in assessing suicide risk: the presence of depression or other mental illness, recent losses, coping skills, the presence of supports in the person's life, substance abuse, impulsivity, reasons to live and many more. In the end, it is what patients are willing to tell you about their depression, hopelessness and desperation and what they are willing to share of their thoughts about suicide that is central to identifying the degree of risk.

One major obstacle to preventing suicide is shame. Shame is a central driver of the stigma that attaches to mental illness and it is stigma that allows us, as a society, to provide so inadequately for the care of the mentally ill (the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration reports that 20 percent of Americans live with a mental illness and that less than 40 percent received any treatment in 2010). Shame often prevents people from sharing their pain with those around them and from seeking the care that may be available. Sometimes it is shame that drives a person to suicide—an arrest for embezzlement or another crime, a business failure or other personal catastrophe that is humiliating beyond tolerance. Ultimately, suicide is experienced as shameful because it is seen as a moral failure and, in most religions, a sin.

The reality is that, all too often, suicide is the endpoint of severe mental illness. Though we strive mightily to prevent it, for some it becomes a terminal illness, taking a toll annually that ranks it among the major disease killers. The conundrum is that, unlike other terminal illnesses, it doesn't have to happen. It seems inevitable when the person, intent on dying, refuses to share suicidal thoughts, yet it remains a volitional act, a choice the person has made. We are haunted by the possibility that he could have chosen otherwise. The final irony is the degree to which shame, which pervades all aspects of suicide, infects the clinician who loses a patient this way. While an oncologist may struggle with a patient's death from terminal cancer, the struggle is framed by the inevitability of the patient's death. The psychiatrist, on the other hand, is left wondering, "if only I had listened more carefully or thought to ask the right question."

Should I have weighed Mr. P's warning to me more heavily though he backtracked vigorously from it? Of course, in retrospect I wish I had. But it is so easy to confuse our retrospective knowledge of a bad outcome with what we could possibly have known beforehand. I have been working this question for years.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. Southeast winds 10 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. Southeast winds 10 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°

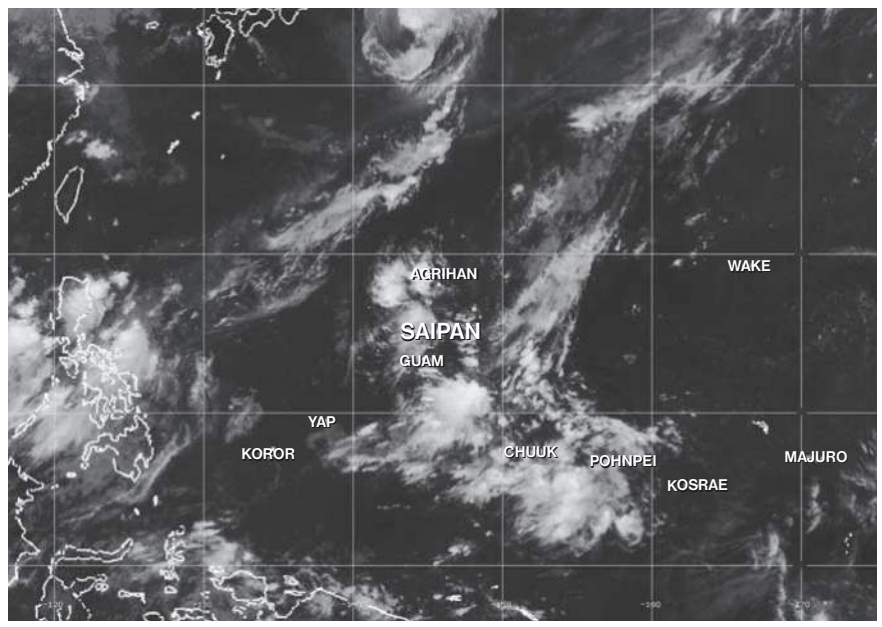
Micronesia

Guam And Rota	Thunderstorms	▲83	▼79
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲82	▼79
Yap	Thunderstorms	▲82	▼80
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲82	▼80
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲83	▼79
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	▲83	▼79
Majuro	Mostly Sunny	▲82	▼80

Around The Globe

Auckland	Partly Cloudy	▲60	▼54
Beijing	Rain	▲69	▼61
Hong Kong	Thundershowers	▲86	▼80
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	▲88	▼75
London	Partly Cloudy	▲66	▼52
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	▲89	▼67
Manila	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼76
Melbourne	Showers	▲62	▼41
Miami	Mostly Sunny	▲87	▼77
New York	Showers	▲77	▼68
Osaka	Showers	▲83	▼62
Paris	Mostly Sunny	▲73	▼51
Pusan	Mostly Sunny	▲77	▼67
Rome	Thundershowers	▲83	▼68
Salem	Sunny	▲82	▼55
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	▲69	▼57
Seoul	Mostly Sunny	▲82	▼61
Tokyo	Thunderstorms	▲83	▼64
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	▲82	▼69

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2014
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A surface trough curves from 25N143E to 22N139E to 21N135E with scattered showers and a few thunderstorms near Iwo To island within 60 miles of the trough. A tropical disturbance is centered southwest of Pohnpei near 5N156E. A surface trough reaches northwestward from the disturbance across the Mariana Islands to end near the northern CNMI at 21N144E. Two other surface troughs extend westward from the disturbance to 9N142E and eastward to 7N180. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are found near the Marianas between 13N and 20N from 142E to 146E from near Yap to near Chuuk between 6N and 12N from 138E to 150E across Chuuk and Pohnpei states between 2N and 12N from 150E to 160E and east of Majuro between 3N and 7N from 175E to 180.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

3:14 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.3 Feet
9:02 AM	Today	High Tide:	2.1 Feet
3:36 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.1 Feet
9:36 PM	Today	High Tide:	2.1 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:05 AM	6:23 PM
Thursday	6:05 AM	6:22 PM
Friday	6:05 AM	6:21 PM
Saturday	6:05 AM	6:21 PM
Sunday	6:05 AM	6:20 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	7:17 PM	6:53 AM
Thursday	8:05 PM	7:53 AM
Friday	8:54 PM	8:52 AM
Saturday	9:43 PM	9:49 AM
Sunday	10:33 PM	10:45 AM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

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- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JULY 28, 2014

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA5070	4:15am	5:05am	Daily
UA5068	8:00am	8:50am	3
UA5068	8:40am	9:30am	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7
UA5039	2:30pm	4:10pm	6, 7 via Rota
UA5078	3:20pm	4:10pm	1, 5
UA5038	3:20pm	4:10pm	2, 4
UA5040	7:05pm	7:55pm	1, 5
UA5078	8:35pm	9:25pm	2, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA5044	10:50pm	11:40pm	1, 5

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

UA5039	2:30pm	3:05pm	6, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)

UA5039	3:35pm	4:10pm	6, 7

SAIPAN-PALAU (ROR)

DL287	6:05am	11:15pm	2, 4, 6 via NRT

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL287	6:05am	8:35am	1, 4, 5, 6
DL297	4:35pm	7:15pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ606	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ606	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ604	3:30pm	6:55pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	4, 7

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

MU7076	4:15am	6:50am	2, 6
3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764A	3:30am	7:30am	4, 7
MU764	4:00am	8:00am	1, 5

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ606/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN
OZ606/701	2:50am	11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5070/191	4:15am	8:55am	3, 6, 7 via GUM
UA5070/183	4:15am	8:45pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA5070/183	4:15am	9:10pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
DL287/473	6:05am	9:45pm	1, 4, 5, 6 via NRT
UA5068/183	8:00am	9:10pm	3 via GUM
UA5039/183	2:30pm	9:10pm	6, 7 via Rota-GUM
UA5038/183	3:20pm	8:45pm	2 via GUM
UA5078/183	3:20pm	8:45pm	5 via GUM
UA5078/183	3:20pm	9:10pm	1 via GUM
UA5038/183	3:20pm	9:10pm	4 via GUM
OZ604/703	3:30pm	10:45pm	1, 3, 5, 7 via ICN

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

OZ606/721	2:20am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ606/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5068/179	8:00am	9:55pm	3 via GUM
UA5068/179	8:40am	9:55pm	1, 5, 6 via GUM
D2 8009	12:50pm	4:05pm	Aug 5, 10, 14, 19, 24, 28
UA5039/179	2:30pm	9:55pm	6 via Rota-GUM
UA5078/179	3:20pm	9:55pm	1, 5 via GUM
OZ604/749	3:30pm	11:00pm	1, 3, 5, 7 via ICN

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA5069	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA5071	6:40am	7:30am	3
UA5071	7:15am	8:05am	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7
UA5039	1:10pm	2:00pm	6, 7
UA5038	1:10pm	2:50pm	2, 4 via Rota
UA5077	2:00pm	2:50pm	1, 5
UA5041	5:45pm	6:35pm	1, 5
UA5077	7:15pm	8:05pm	2, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA5043	9:30pm	10:20pm	1, 5

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)

UA5038	1:10pm	1:45pm	2, 4

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

UA5038	2:15pm	2:50pm	2, 4

PALAU (ROR)-SAIPAN

DL298	4:30am	3:00pm	3, 5, 7 via NRT

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:25am	3:00pm	Daily
DL288	8:55pm	1:25am+1	3, 4, 5, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

OZ603	8:50am	2:20pm	Daily
OZ605	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ605	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:05pm	1:55am+1	3, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

MU7075	9:00pm	3:15am+1	1, 5
3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763A	7:25pm	2:30am+1	3, 6
MU763	7:55pm	3:00am+1	4, 7

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

OZ704/603	12:10am	2:20pm	1, 3, 5, 7 via ICN
DL172/288	7:55am	1:25am+1	3, 4, 5, 7 via NRT
UA190/5077	9:55am	8:05pm	3, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ702/605	12:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/605	12:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA184/5071	10:25pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/5039	10:25pm	2:00pm+1	6 via GUM
UA184/5038	10:25pm	2:50pm+1	1, 3 via GUM-Rota
UA184/5077	10:25pm	2:50pm+1	4, 7 via GUM-Rota
UA184/5041	10:25pm	6:35pm+1	4, 7 via GUM-Rota
UA184/5077	10:25pm	8:05pm+1	1, 3, 6 via GUM
UA184/5043	10:25pm	10:20pm+1	4, 7 via GUM
UA184/5071	11:30pm	7:30am+1	2 via GUM
UA184/5071	11:30pm	8:05am+1	5 via GUM
UA184/5039	11:30pm	2:00pm+1	5 via GUM
UA184/5077	11:30pm	8:05pm+1	2, 5 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ746/603	12:30am	2:20pm	1, 3, 5, 7 via ICN
OZ722/605	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/605	1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
D28008	6:05pm	1:20am+1	Aug 5, 10, 14, 19, 24, 28
UA180/5071	9:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
UA180/5039	9:55pm	2:00pm+1	5, 6 via GUM
UA180/5038	9:55pm	2:50pm+1	1, 3 via GUM-Rota
UA180/5077	9:55pm	8:05pm+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; VLK: Vladivostok Air; SYL: Yakutia Air; D: Dynamic Airways; ORB: OREN AIR; D2: Dynamic Air

ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

Business

Apple to reveal its next big thing

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Apple is poised to reveal its next big thing Tuesday in a crucial attempt to prove its technological tastemakers still have the power to mesmerize the masses.

The trend-setting company is expected to rouse the still-slumbering market for wearable computers with a smartwatch or bracelet equipped to monitor health, help manage homes and even buy merchandise.

Apple is a late arrival to this relatively new niche: several other companies already sell smartwatches that are being greeted with widespread indifference.

If any company can transform the landscape, it's likely to be Apple Inc. after the company shifted the direction of digital technology with the iPod, iPhone and iPad. Other MP3 music players, smartphones and tablet computers were first to market, but the devices didn't enthrall consumers until Apple imbued them with a sense of elegance, convenience and wizardry.

"It means more to us to get it right than to be first," Apple CEO Tim Cook explained to analysts earlier this year.

Apple is likely to provide the first peek at its wearable device at an event set to begin at 10 a.m. PDT in the same Silicon Valley auditorium where Apple's late co-founder, Steve Jobs, unveiled the industry-shifting Mac computer 25 years ago.

Rumors have been swirling that U2, one of Jobs' favorite musical groups, will perform live to promote its new album, as well as Apple's latest gadgetry, which is likely to include an iPhone with a larger screen.

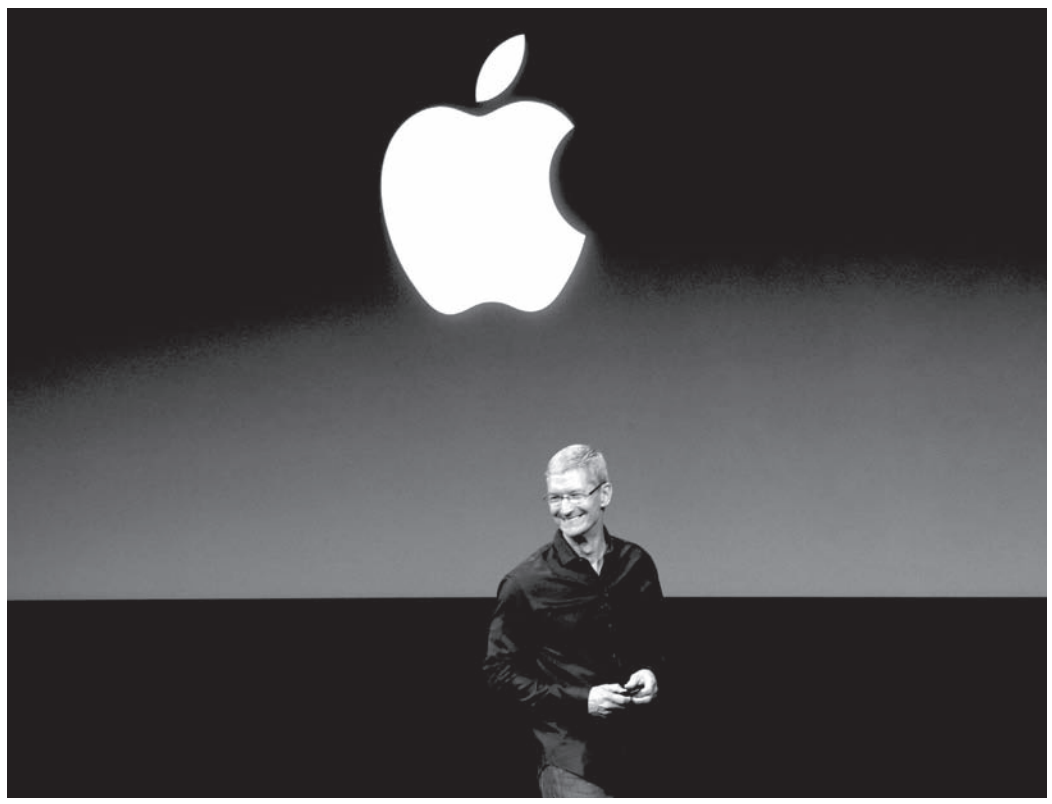
As usual, Apple hasn't said what's on tap, though the company's top executives have repeatedly promised major breakthroughs without providing any details.

"The location suggests this will be a historic event and the historic aspect will be their movement into a new category," predicted technology analyst and longtime Apple watcher Tim Bajarin.

After Tuesday's glimpse, it still may be several months before people get a chance to wear the device. There's speculation that the smartwatch won't be available until early next year, although Apple is expected to take orders during the holiday shopping season.

A smartwatch or high-tech bracelet would mark the first time that Apple Inc. has rolled out a new product line since the iPad's release nearly four-and-half years ago. In that time, the Cupertino, California, company, has been sprucing up its selection of iPhones, iPads and Macs with new models each year since Jobs died in October 2011 after a long battle with cancer.

The innovation void raised questions as to whether Apple's creativity was fading under Cook, Jobs' hand-picked successor.



AP

In this Tuesday, Sept. 10, 2013, file photo, Apple CEO Tim Cook speaks on stage before a new product introduction in Cupertino, Calif. Apple is poised to reveal its next big thing Tuesday, Sept. 9, 2014, in a crucial attempt to prove its technological tastemakers still have the power to mesmerize the masses.

GE, home appliance pioneer, gives up on consumers

NEW YORK (AP)—General Electric, a household name for more than a century in part for making households easier to run, is leaving the home.

The company is selling the division that invented the toaster in 1905 and now sells refrigerators, stoves and laundry machines. GE instead wants to focus on building industrial machines such as aircraft engines, locomotives, gas-fired turbines and medical imaging equipment—which are much bigger and more complex than washers, and more profitable.

"They are no longer going to be a consumer company," says Andrew Inkpen, a professor at the Thunderbird School of Global Management who studies GE.

GE, based in Fairfield, Connecticut, Monday announced the sale of its appliance division to the Swedish appliance maker Electrolux for $3.3 billion. Electrolux will still sell appliances under the GE brand in attempt to leverage the company's long history.

GE has sold devices to people for its entire 122-year history, starting with the light bulb, which was invented by company founder Thomas Edison. But in the first half of this year, GE's appliances and lighting division accounted for just 8 percent of the company's industrial revenues and 2 percent of its profit.

GE hopes that selling big, complex products such as power generators and oil and gas equipment to other businesses will boost profit and once again endear it to investors.

GE is the only remaining member of the first Dow Jones Industrial Average, calculated in 1896. As recently as 2004 it had the world's largest market value. But since then, GE has frustrated shareholders. Its shares are 22 percent below where they were a decade ago. The S&P 500 is up 79 percent over the same period.

GE got into businesses such as media or insurance because they promised new sources of profit, not because of any competitive advantage the company possessed. Investors found the structure unwieldy, and put their money elsewhere.

Heavy exposure to commercial and residential mortgages through its finance division threatened GE's existence during the financial crisis. It needed funds from a government liquidity program and a $3 billion investment from Warren Buffet to shore up its finances.

Now GE wants to be only in businesses that can benefit from the company's global scale, experience with complex projects, and technical ability.

Twitter tests shopping service with 'Buy' button

NEW YORK (AP)—Twitter is taking its users shopping.

The short messaging service began testing a "Buy" button Monday that lets some of its users make purchases or donate money to charities without leaving Twitter. Initial partners include music stars Eminem and Brad Paisley, retailers Home Depot and Burberry and nonprofits The Nature Conservancy and GLAAD.

After clicking the "Buy" button, users are asked to enter their address and credit card information. The order is then sent to the merchant for delivery. The company said in a blog post that users' personal information will be encrypted and saved on Twitter so that they can buy things again without re-entering their information.

The shopping feature comes as the San Francisco-based company tries to increase its user base and revenue, most of which comes from advertising. It had 271 million average monthly users at the end of June, up 24 percent from a year earlier.

Facebook, which has more than 1.3 billion users, started testing its own "Buy" button in July.

Twitter's button is only available now for a "small percentage of U.S. users," but the company said that will increase.

The shopping button could help Twitter add another source of revenue as the digital advertising market and online shopping grow. Twitter did not offer financial details about its new service and did not respond to a request for comment.

Research firm eMarketer estimates that Twitter will account for 1.6 percent of digital ad spending in the U.S. this year, up from 1 percent in 2013. It is expected to hold 3.5 percent of the mobile ad market in the U.S. in 2014, according to eMarketer.

Twitter Inc. shares rose $1.30, or 2.6 percent, to close at $52 Monday.

US consumer borrowing jumps by most in 3 years

WASHINGTON (AP)—U.S. consumers stepped up their borrowing in July, led by rising auto loans and higher credit card balances.

The Federal Reserve said Monday that overall consumer borrowing jumped $26 billion in July to $3.24 trillion. The 9.7 percent increase matches April's gain as the largest in three years.

The figures add to a mixed picture for consumers in recent weeks. A healthy increase in credit usually indicates that consumers are shedding some caution about spending, which would boost economic growth. Rising debt loads are generally a sign of greater confidence in the economy.

But other data hasn't been as positive. Overall spending fell in July for the first time since January, the government said last month. And consumer confidence, as measured by the University of Michigan, has barely budged in the past year.

Auto and student loans jumped 10.6 percent to $2.36 trillion, fueled by strong auto sales. Automakers in July reported their best sales figures for that month in eight years. Credit card debt, meanwhile, rose 7.4 percent to $880.5 billion.

Americans have reined in their credit card spending since the Great Recession and household finances have generally improved. But student and auto loans have skyrocketed, intensifying concerns that they are creating new challenges for consumers. Young Americans saddled with student debt may not be able to buy homes or spend on other items the way previous generations did.

And more Americans with checkered credit histories are obtaining auto loans, which raises the risk that millions of them could default. New auto loans reached their highest level in eight years this spring, the New York Federal Reserve said.

Student loans have soared since the recession ended, topping $1.1 trillion by the second quarter of this year. That's up from $700 billion in 2009.

Still, consumers are reluctant to build up their credit card balances. Many have likely switched to debit cards instead. Total outstanding credit card debt was more than $1 trillion when the recession hit in December 2007. The total bottomed out at about $835 billion in April 2011 and has only recovered gradually since then.

STOCK PORTFOLIO

LEADING INDICATORS

DOW	S&P	NASDAQ
17,111.42	2,001.54	4,592.29
-25.94	-6.17	+9.39
-0.15%	-0.31%	0.20%

EXCHANGE RATES

In U.S. dollar terms

Australian Dollar	1.0795	Hong Kong Dollar	7.7502	Philippine Peso	43.74
British Pound	0.6218	Indian Rupee	60.43	Singapore Dollar	1.2606
Canadian Dollar	1.0993	Indonesian Rupiah	11769	South Korean Won	1031.9
Chinese Yuan	6.1336	Japanese Yen	106.25	Swiss Franc	0.9365
Euro	0.7763	New Zealand Dollar	1.2098	Taiwan Dollar	29.951
				Thailand Baht	32.09

Nation

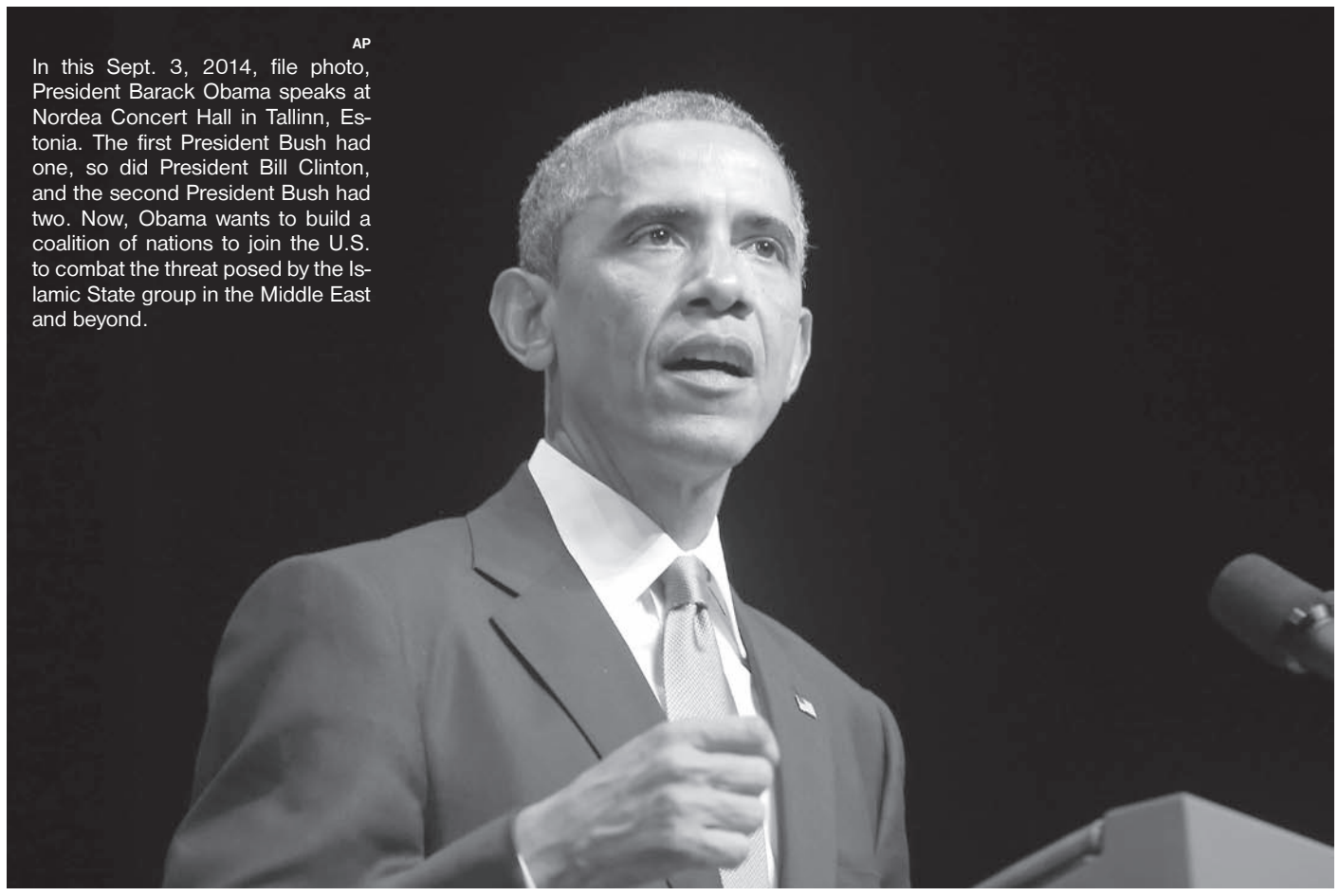
Obama to broaden US effort to combat militants

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Barack Obama will go on the offensive against the Islamic State group with a broader counterterror mission than he previously has been willing to embrace, U.S. officials said Monday. The new plan, however, still won't commit U.S. troops to a ground war against the brutal insurgency and will rely heavily for now on allies to pitch in for what could be an extended campaign.

Obama's more aggressive posture—which officials say will target Islamic State militants comprehensively and not just to protect U.S. interests or help resolve humanitarian disasters—reflects a new direction for a president who campaigned to end the war in Iraq and has generally been deeply reluctant to use U.S. military might since he took office in 2009.

"Almost every single county on Earth has a role to play in eliminating the ISIL threat and the evil that it represents," Secretary of State John Kerry told reporters Monday night, using an acronym for the Islamic State. He said nations around the world are seeking to defeat the militancy with a coalition "built to endure for the months, and perhaps years, to come."

The U.S. has already launched more than 100 airstrikes against militant targets in Iraq, including a new series that the military said killed an unusually large number of Islamic State fighters. A Central Command statement Monday said the strikes hit targets near the Haditha Dam, and a spokesman, Maj. Curtis Kellogg, said 50 to 70 fighters were targeted and most were believed to have been killed.



AP

In this Sept. 3, 2014, file photo, President Barack Obama speaks at Nordea Concert Hall in Tallinn, Estonia. The first President Bush had one, so did President Bill Clinton, and the second President Bush had two. Now, Obama wants to build a coalition of nations to join the U.S. to combat the threat posed by the Islamic State group in the Middle East and beyond.

Now, after the beheadings of two American freelance journalists, Obama is considering expanding the airstrikes campaign into Syria, where the Islamic State has a safe haven. Obama has long avoided taking military action in Syria, concerned about indirectly assisting President Bashar Assad and his government in Damascus. But White House spokesman Josh Earnest suggested Monday that the U.S. could be moving in that direction, saying Obama was willing "to go wherever is necessary to strike those who are threatening Americans."

Obama is to describe his plans in a speech on Wednesday. By that time, Kerry will be headed to Saudi Arabia and Jordan to meet with Mideast leaders and gauge their level of commitment to a growing worldwide coalition that is uniting against the Islamic State. Kerry said nations from Canada to Estonia to Kuwait to Australia have already contributed a mix of assistance.

As he weighs his next move, Obama was soliciting advice Monday from prominent foreign policy experts from across the political spectrum over dinner at the White House. Among the guests invited to join Obama and Vice President Joe Biden were former national security advisers from the Obama, George W. Bush, Clinton and Carter administrations, as well as Council on Foreign Relations President Richard Haass and former Acting CIA Director Michael Morrell.

In a call Monday evening, Obama congratulated new Iraqi Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi for the approval of a new government. The White House said al-Abadi "expressed his commitment to work with all communities in Iraq as well as regional and international partners to strengthen Iraq's capabilities" to fight the Islamic State militants.

Obama also spoke with Australian Prime Minister Tony Abbott on the need to keep addressing the ongoing threat from the Islamic State and to thank Australia for its contributions to humanitarian air drops in northern Iraq, the White House said.

Yet beyond airstrikes, much of the international strategy against the Islamic State covers the same ground as it has for the past several months.

Two senior U.S. officials said it will continue to curb foreign fighters and funding flowing to militants, aim to persuade the new government in Baghdad that was seated Monday to give more power to its Sunni citizens in hopes of discouraging them from joining the insurgency, and strengthen Iraqi government forces and moderate Syrian rebels in their respective battles against the Islamic State.

Serious respiratory illness hits hundreds of kids

CHICAGO (AP)—Hundreds of children in more than 10 states have been sickened by a severe respiratory illness that public health officials say may be caused by an uncommon virus similar to the germ that causes the common cold.

Nearly 500 children have been treated at one hospital alone—Children's Mercy in Kansas City, Missouri—and some required intensive care, according to authorities.

The suspected germ, enterovirus 68, is an uncommon strain of a very common family of viruses that typically hit from summertime through autumn.

The virus can cause mild coldlike symptoms including runny noses, coughing and wheezing but Mark Pallansch, director of the viral diseases division at the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, said this summer's cases are unusually severe and include serious breathing problems.

"It's not highly unusual but we're trying to understand what happened this year in terms of these noticeable and much larger clusters of severe respiratory disease," Pallansch said Monday.

The virus typically causes illness lasting about a week and most children recover with no lasting problems.

Cases have been confirmed in Missouri and Illinois. CDC said it is testing to see if the virus caused respiratory illnesses reported in children in Alabama, Colorado, Georgia, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Michigan, Ohio, Oklahoma and Utah. The states' tally changes as specimens are confirmed or test negative. A spokeswoman for Iowa's public health department said CDC tests confirmed the virus in samples from patients in central Iowa and a Colorado hospital said it has confirmed cases.

The CDC's Dr. Anne Schuchat said at a Monday news briefing that there are other viruses making kids sick.

"Most of the runny noses out there are not going to be turning into this," she said.

Children with asthma and other health problems are especially at risk for the enterovirus, but reported cases include children without asthma who have developed asthmalike breathing problems, Pallansch said. He said no deaths have been reported in the outbreak.

Dr. Mary Anne Jackson, director of infectious diseases at Children's Mercy, said local cases began appearing in mid-August and they appear to have peaked in her area.

Schuchat said the strain involved also appeared in the United States last year and in specimens from other countries. She said the CDC learned it had reappeared in this country last month when authorities in Chicago and Kansas City notified the agency about severe illnesses in children who had to be hospitalized. She said the virus was found in 11 of 14 specimens from Chicago and in 19 of 22 specimens from Missouri.

Court hears arguments over gay marriage's impact

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—A federal appeals court in San Francisco waded again into the debate over the constitutionality of gay marriage, with attorneys for both sides arguing over whether legalizing it would harm children.

The three judges on the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals—two of whom have ruled in previous cases in favor of gay rights—reserved many of their most pointed questions at the defenders of state bans in Idaho, Nevada and Hawaii.

Judge Marsha Berzon appeared critical of the attorney defending two of the bans, saying he was sending a message that families headed by same-sex couples were "second-rate."

"You're sending a message that these are less desirable families" she said. "That is what you're doing. That is what you say you're doing."

The hearing is the first time since it declared California's gay marriage ban unconstitutional that the 9th Circuit is listening to arguments over same-sex weddings in a political and legal climate that's vastly different than when it overturned Proposition 8 in 2012. State and federal court judges have been striking down bans in more than a dozen states at a rapid rate since a landmark U.S. Supreme Court ruling last year.

Attorney Monte Neil Stewart faced tough questions from Berzon as he defended Idaho's ban.

Stewart told the panel that same-sex marriage would undermine children's right to be raised by a father and mother. Same-sex marriage would undercut the message that a man who fathers a child should get in a relationship with the female mother, he said.

"This is a contest between two different messages," Stewart said. "The message of man-woman marriage is: `Men, you're valuable and important in the upbringing of the children you bring into this world. Women, you are valuable and important in the upbringing of children you bring into this world.' Genderless marriage does not send that message, indeed it undermines it."

Cars engulfed as rain sets record for Phoenix

PHOENIX (AP)—The remnants of Hurricane Norbert pushed into the desert Southwest and swamped Phoenix with record rainfall for a single day, turning freeways into small lakes and sending rescuers scrambling to get drivers out of inundated cars.

At least two people died in the flooding, including a woman who was swept away in her car by rushing water and became trapped against a bridge. In addition, a 76-year-old woman drowned in floodwaters.

By Monday evening, floodwaters were threatening up to 100 homes in suburban Mesa after retention basins and channels along the U.S. 60 freeway reached or exceeded capacity, allowing water to flow into some neighborhoods, city officials said.

Crews were working to disconnect power to submerged transformers, provide sandbags to threatened homes and pump water from affected areas. A temporary shelter was being set up at a recreation center for those choosing to voluntarily evacuate.

The flooding was caused by heavy thunderstorms and showers associated with Norbert after it was downgraded to a tropical depression.

Storms also hit Nevada, where 190 people from an Indian reservation were evacuated Monday and officials feared riverbanks could overflow after 4 inches of rain fell in a two-hour period in the small town of Moapa, northeast of Las Vegas.

Erin Neff of the Clark County Regional Flood Control District said authorities were keeping an eye on the Virgin River, which was at 9 feet and floods at 11 feet.

Asia

US: China, US should avoid military incidents

BEIJING (AP)—China and the U.S. need to avoid incidents that complicate relations between their militaries, the U.S. National Security Adviser Susan Rice said Tuesday in Beijing following a recent close call between air force planes from the two sides.

Rice made the comments in a meeting with China's Vice Chairman of the Central Military Commission Fang Changlong on the second day of a two-day visit to pave the way for a visit by President Barack Obama to Beijing in November.

"Military-to-military ties between the United States and China have grown and strengthened. And it is an area of cooperation that the United States values," Rice said, adding that "we face challenges and we certainly need to avoid any incidents that could complicate the relationship."

Washington has alleged that a Chinese pilot acted recklessly Aug. 19 during close passes of a US plane about 135 miles (220 kilometers) south of Hainan island, which is home to Chinese naval airfields and a highly sensitive submarine base. China denied any reckless flying and said it would continue responding to U.S. surveillance flights off its coast.

AP

U.S. National Security Advisor Susan Rice, center, walks with Fang Changlong, left, vice chairman of the Central Military Commission at Bayi Building in Beijing Tuesday, Sept. 9, 2014.

Despite tensions between their militaries, China and the U.S. have increased engagement in recent years. China's navy took part this year for the first time in multinational naval drills hosted by the U.S. off the coast of Hawaii.

Rice was scheduled to meet defense and foreign ministers Tuesday. She met with the country's top diplomat, State Councilor Yang Jiechi, on Monday.

The countries' relationship has been tested by U.S. allegations of Chinese military cyberspying and Obama's stated pivot to Asia, which China sees as an effort to contain its rising power.

Rice said Monday that among all the other issues facing the United States, Obama still considered China to be a priority and that her primary reason for coming to Beijing was to hammer out the agenda for the November meeting between Obama and Chinese President Xi Jinping.

At the sprawling Diaoyutai State Guesthouse in western Beijing, Yang told her that the countries needed to "truly respect each other's core interests and major concerns and constructively manage our differences and sensitive issues."

He said they would discuss military relations, counter terrorism, the Middle East, North Korea, South Sudan, Iran and other topics of mutual concern.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Afghanistan's Abdullah rejects election outcome

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—Afghan presidential candidate Abdullah Abdullah said Monday that he will not accept the expected official results of the election, breaking a pledge he made to the U.S. secretary of state and injecting new tension into an already drawn-out political process. Appearing tired and nervous, Abdullah told a nationally televised news conference that he believes he won both times Afghans voted this year—in April and again in a June runoff. He accused election authorities of violating the desires of voters by ignoring widespread fraud and preparing to declare his opponent, former Finance Minister Ashraf Ghani Ahmadzai, the winner. "We were the winners of the election," said Abdullah. "We are the winners of the election based on the real vote of the people."

Japan compiles 12,000-page bio of Emperor Hirohito

TOKYO (AP)—Japan's Imperial Household Agency has compiled a 61-volume biography of former Emperor Hirohito that portrays him as being distressed that he could not stop his country from going to war, according to Japan's Kyodo News agency. The 12,000-page record says he complained in July 1939 to Army Minister Seishiro Itagaki about the military's "predisposition" as it strengthened its relationship with Germany, Kyodo reported. He also warned against the navy's call for war with the United States, predicting in July 1941 that it would be "nothing less than a self-destructive war." The record also cites U.S. Gen. Douglas MacArthur, who led America's postwar occupation of Japan, as saying Hirohito had said he accepted full responsibility for the war.

Thai police question surrogacy scandal doctor

BANGKOK (AP)—Thai police on Monday questioned a doctor at the heart of the surrogacy scandal involving a Japanese businessman who has reportedly fathered 16 surrogate babies. Pisit Tantiwattanakul's whereabouts had been unknown since he closed his fertility clinic and emptied it of all patient files shortly after the scandal broke in early August. Police, however, summoned Pisit, and he presented himself to investigators for the first time late Monday at a police station in Bangkok. Pisit was the owner of a fertility clinic allegedly involved in performing commercial surrogacy for Mitsutoki Shigeta, a 24-year-old Japanese man who is not currently in Thailand.

Relatives mark 6 months since MH370 went missing

BEIJING (AP)—Chinese relatives of passengers aboard the Malaysia Airlines plane that went missing six months ago Monday marked the date by praying at a Beijing temple, after police broke up a gathering they held outside.

More than 30 relatives gathered outside the Lama Temple and listened to one of them deliver a speech about how much he missed his daughter, leading many of the family members to break into tears in the presence of journalists from domestic and foreign media, said relative Dai Shuqin. Some wore T-shirts that read "Pray for MH370 to return home safe and sound."

Police then asked them to stop, said Dai, whose sister was on Flight 370 with her husband, daughter, son-in-law and grandchild. About seven or eight plainclothes officers standing in a row tried to separate reporters from relatives and then told the family members not to enter the temple in a big group, Dai said. Afterward, the family members bought admission tickets in groups of two to three and prayed inside.

The jetliner disappeared March 8 after veering off its northerly course from Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, to Beijing and has become one of aviation's biggest mysteries. It is thought to have crashed about 1,800 kilometers (1,100 miles) off Australia's west coast, but no trace of the aircraft or the 239 people aboard—153 of whom were Chinese nationals—has been found despite an exhaustive search.

Displaying their frustration, Chinese relatives and their supporters have organized sporadic marches to the Malaysian Embassy and a demonstration outside the airline's Beijing office to demand answers on their loved ones' fate. They have also prayed at local temples.

Family members say they have come under tighter watch by Chinese police, and, in contrast to the massive coverage when the plane went missing, hardly any reporters from domestic media have been present at events organized by the relatives in recent months. Foreign media have also been prevented from filming them praying.

Dai said there was growing anger and dissatisfaction among the relatives toward the Chinese government. "We also feel very helpless ... because we need to rely on the government for their assistance and support and hope they can put pressure on the Malaysian airline to find out the truth," she said.

Indian, Pakistani troops aid flood-stranded people

NEW DELHI (AP)—Rescue workers in boats and helicopters worked to save thousands of people trapped in homes and on rooftops Monday after floods and landslides killed more than 320 people in the Himalayan region of Kashmir and eastern Pakistan.

Six days of torrential rains have soaked both sides of the divided territory of Kashmir, which India and Pakistan each claim.

A senior Indian army official said the Kashmir valley is facing critical danger.

"Our focus remains to rescue people who are stranded in their houses, and provide them some basic necessities," said Lt. Gen. D.S. Hooda.

Although the rain has stopped, thousands of people were in peril in both countries.

In the Indian-controlled portion of Kashmir, which suffered its worst flooding in five decades, the force of the water snapped electric pylons and disrupted mobile telephone and landline networks, leaving many in the dark with no means of communication.

And in northern and eastern Pakistan, including the Pakistan-controlled part of Kashmir, soldiers were helping civilian authorities with rescue operations.

More than 120 people have died in India, authorities said. Pakistan's National Disaster Management Authority spokesman Ahmad Kamal said the death toll there had reached 205 people—131 people in the Punjab district and 74 in the Kashmir and Gilgit areas.

Pakistani authorities were preparing for worsening conditions as water levels in the Chenab and Indus rivers were rising, Kamal said.

Farmer Abid Hussain, who was among those rescued by helicopter to Pindi Bhattian town, said he could not save anything from the raging waters that swept through his home.

"We were at home when suddenly someone shouted: `Water has come'," Hussain told reporters in Pindi Bhattian, 265 kilometers (165 miles) southeast of Islamabad.

"We could not take anything but rushed toward the mosque for safety. Soon we had to climb to the rooftop as water submerged the ground floor. We had been on the roof for two days until the helicopter rescued us and brought us here," Hussain said.

"Everything has been washed away or destroyed in this flood," he said.

Flood waters had entered homes and submerged many of them in Bagh Unna area where Hussain lived. Hundreds of residents of the town had been taken to safer places by helicopter.

World

Ukraine's leader rallies for unity in key city

MARIUPOL, Ukraine (AP)—Seeking to rally national unity, President Petro Poroshenko visited a southeastern port Monday that has been assaulted for days by Russian-backed separatists and declared the city would remain a part of Ukraine.

After a series of military defeats to increasingly confident rebel forces in the country's eastern regions, Ukraine signed a cease-fire deal Friday that has been widely viewed at home as an act of capitulation. Much of the region has remained calm as the truce appeared to be holding, although sporadic unrest was reported.

"We will do everything to ensure there is peace, but we will also brace ourselves for the defense our country," Poroshenko told metal workers at a plant that was within the range of the rebels' rockets.

Also Monday, the Kremlin said Poroshenko and Russian President Vladimir Putin spoke by telephone and "continued to discuss steps helping peaceful settlement in southeastern Ukraine."

The two leaders had also talked Saturday about implementing the cease-fire plan in the conflict that has lasted nearly five months and killed at least 3,000, according to a U.N. estimate. The fighting has also forced hundreds of thousands to flee their homes.

"The dialogue will continue," the Kremlin said without elaborating.

AP

Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko speaks to local workers during his visit to the Ilich Iron and Steel Works in the southern coastal town of Mariupol, Ukraine, Monday, Sept. 8, 2014.

Also Monday, the European Council formally adopted a package of further sanctions against Russia but delayed enforcement to see if the cease-fire holds.

Council President Herman Van Rompuy said the sanctions will be implemented in the next few days, which would leave time for "an assessment of the implementation of the cease-fire agreement and the peace plan."

The European Union sanctions are expected to be coordinated with a new round of U.S. sanctions, a Western diplomat said. The U.S. sanctions are ready for release, the diplomat said, but the Obama administration wants to wait to act in concert with Europe to maximize the impact of the sanctions and present a united front against Russia. The diplomat was not authorized to discuss the details of the sanctions before they were formally announced and insisted on anonymity.

Poroshenko's trip to Mariupol came days after it came under sustained shelling from rebels stationed along the 70-kilometer (40-mile) stretch between the strategic port on the Sea of Azov and the Russian border.

"This city was, is, and will be Ukrainian!" he told the crowd under the gaze of a tight security detail.

The agreement reached in Minsk, the capital of Belarus, called for an immediate halt to fighting and an exchange of prisoners. It also called for the central government to give a greater degree of autonomy to the separatist Russian-speaking regions of Donetsk and Luhansk, although details remained vague.

While insisting the agreement would not lead to the breakup of Ukraine, Poroshenko expressed some openness to further discussions on the shape of the country.

"I think that we should elect the real representatives of Donetsk and Luhansk. And we, with them, can negotiate anything, excluding the sovereignty of territorial integrity," he said, speaking in English at a news conference in Mariupol.

Poroshenko peppered his conciliatory messages with a gritty determination to repel what he strongly implied was Russia's aggression.

"Mariupol has proven that we won't let anybody burn our city to the ground. The workers of Mariupol have protected peace and calm in the city," he said.

Poroshenko also said thousands of prisoners would be released by the rebels. He later announced that 20 Ukrainian soldiers had been freed.

US faces Arab reluctance in Islamic State fight

BEIRUT (AP)—Stitching together a broad coalition to tackle the extremist Islamic State group hinges on overcoming the reluctance of U.S. allies in the Middle East who are deeply frustrated with a White House they believe has been naive and weak on Syria's civil war.

Key Sunni Arab states, Saudi Arabia chief among them, have wanted the U.S. to do more to provide robust support to mainstream Syrian rebels in their war against President Bashar Assad. The result is hesitation to answer President Barack Obama's call for a regional front against the Islamic State group, even though it is widely reviled.

The United States is mounting a major campaign to get allies on board. Secretary of State John Kerry will visit the region and Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel was in Turkey on Monday to lobby the NATO ally.

But it is not always an easy sell.

"Trust is so low, especially in the Gulf region, for Obama's leadership quality and the way he manages foreign policy. I don't think any country is going to put its hand up or neck out by accepting an alliance with the U.S. that easily," said Mustafa Alani, the director of the security and defense department at the Gulf Research Center in Geneva.

That is not to say that Sunni states in the region won't ultimately join the U.S. in the campaign against the extremists who have seized large swaths of Iraq and Syria, or that they don't view the militants as a threat. But it suggests, analysts say, that the U.S. will have to do some convincing—and likely enticing—to get them into the fight.

"These countries can offer a lot, but I think any cooperation here is going to be conditional," Alani said. "They are not going to jump in the pool for nothing."

U.S. allies in the Middle East are among the most threatened by the Islamic State group, whose rampage across northern and western Iraq in June rattled officials in capitals across the region. Jordan and Saudi Arabia, both of whom suddenly found Islamic State fighters on their doorstep, have dispatched military reinforcements to their borders to boost security.

Iraqi parliament approves partial new Cabinet

BAGHDAD (AP)—Iraq's parliament officially named Haider al-Abadi the country's new prime minister late Monday and approved most of his proposed Cabinet amid calls by the Arab League for its members to combat the Sunni militant group violently advancing across Iraq and Syria.

Lawmakers approved all of the candidates proposed for Iraq's new government, with the exception of a few posts, namely the defense and interior ministers. Al-Abadi requested an additional week to name them.

Outgoing Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki, former Prime Minister Ayad Allawi and former Speaker of Parliament Osama al-Nujeifi were given the largely ceremonial posts of co-vice president. Kurdish politician and former Foreign Minister Hoshyar Zebari was named as one of three deputy prime ministers. Former premier Ibrahim al-Jafaari was named foreign minister.

The U.S. and other countries have been pushing for a more representative government that will ease anger among Sunnis, who felt marginalized by al-Maliki's administration, helping fuel the dramatic sweep by the Islamic State extremist group over much of northern and western Iraq since June.

Speaking before parliament, Al-Abadi vowed to "back the military operations in all the areas of confrontation against the armed gangs and the forces of terrorism and ensuring their continuation till victory is achieved."

The proposed resolution by the Arab League does not explicitly back an expanded American military operation targeting the group. It leaves room, however, for it to work with whatever approach U.S. President Barack Obama lays out during his planned speech Wednesday on the eve of the 13th anniversary of the Sept. 11, 2001, terror attacks.

WORLD BRIEFS

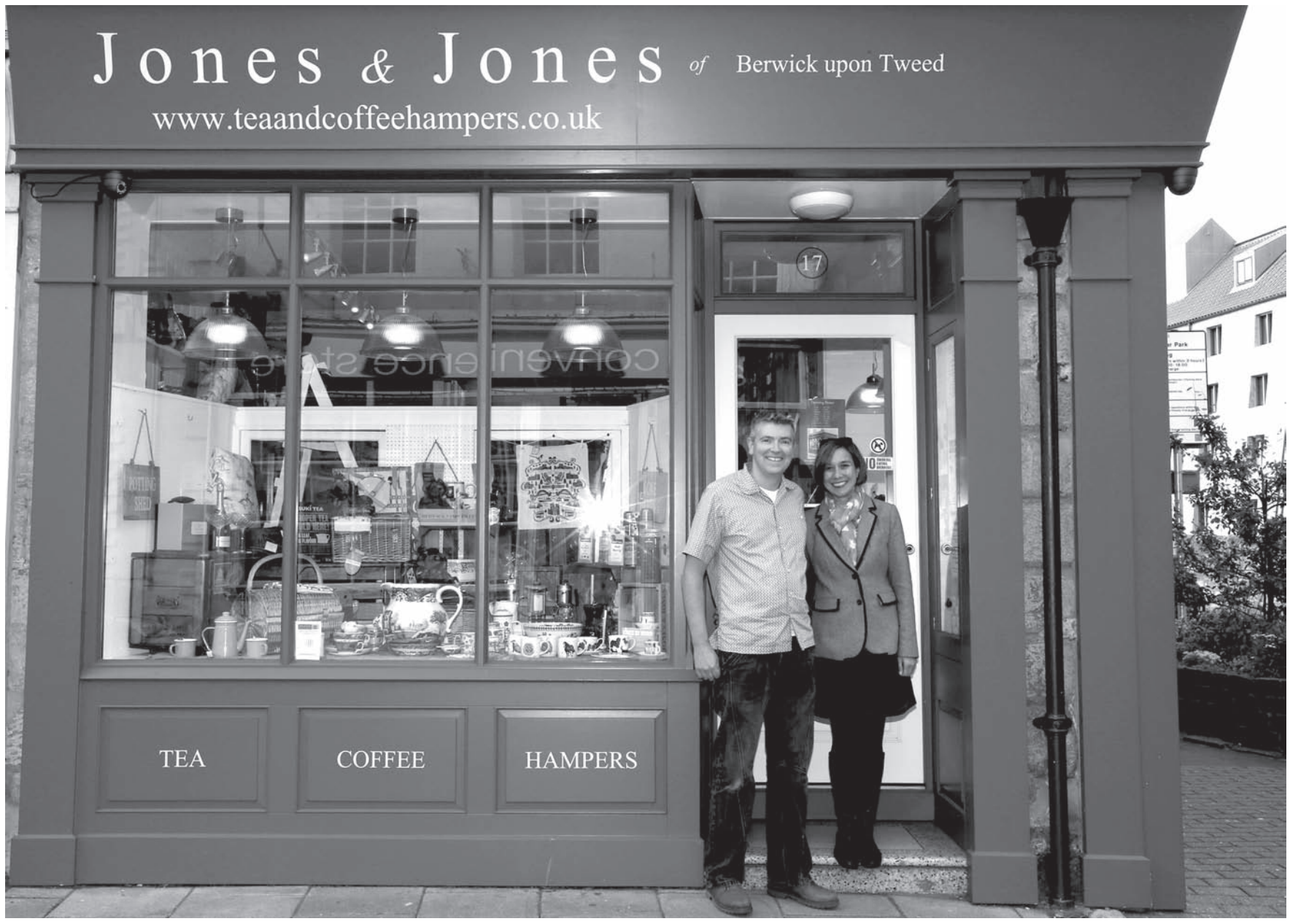
Chile blames terrorists after bomb blast hurts 14

SANTIAGO, Chile (AP)—A blast ripped through a fast-food restaurant next to a busy subway station in Chile's capital on Monday, injuring at least 14 people in the most damaging of nearly 30 bombings or attempted bombings in Santiago this year. While no group claimed responsibility for the blast, many past bombings have been claimed by anarchist groups and Chile's government said it would invoke the country's tough anti-terror laws. The explosion took place during lunchtime at a restaurant in a small, underground shopping mall connected to the Escuela Militar subway station in Santiago's affluent Las Condes neighborhood. Witnesses described a gory and chaotic scene as the blast sent bodies flying, while commuters ran away from the smoke screaming.

Gambia lawmakers pass bill to jail gays for life

ABIDJAN, Ivory Coast (AP)—Gambia's National Assembly has passed a bill imposing life imprisonment for some homosexual acts, officials said Monday, potentially worsening the climate for sexual minorities in a country with one of Africa's most vocal anti-gay leaders. The bill amending the criminal code was passed last month and brings life sentences for "aggravated homosexuality," minority leader Samba Jallow told The Associated Press. That is a charge leveled at repeat offenders and people living with HIV/AIDS. Jallow said that while his National Reconciliation Party did not condone homosexuality, he voted against the bill along with one other lawmaker. "In our view, (homosexuals) did not commit a crime worthy of life imprisonment or any treasonable offense," he said. Homosexual acts were already punishable by up to 14 years in prison under a Gambian law that was amended in 2005 to apply to women in addition to men.

Focus



AP

Business owners Gavin and Gail Jones at their shop which sells products from Scotland and England in Berwick Upon Tweed, England, Monday, Sept. 8, 2014.The British government plans to offer Scotland more financial autonomy in the coming days as polls predict a very close vote in the September 18 referendum on Scottish independence.

As Scots eye independence, rest of UK gets nervous

BERWICK-UPON-TWEED, England (AP) — All Gavin Jones has to do is scan the shelves of his impossibly quaint shop on England's border with Scotland to know he'll have a big problem if the Scots declare independence next week.

There are teddy bears in Campbell clan tartans and shelves of shortbread from Scotland—just above the red jams made in England. After independence, the Scottish goods would be subject to import duties, and customers would likely pay in two different currencies. Business in Berwick-upon-Tweed, England's northernmost town, could soon be crushed by bank transaction costs.

"If Scotland chooses independence, it changes our concept of local," he said. "There are then barriers put in place."

Berwickers like to think of themselves as neither English nor Scottish. Little wonder: this enclave has changed hands 13 times over the centuries. But there is no getting away from the fact that the locals in Berwick (pronounced BEAR-ick) could be dramatically affected by the Sept. 18 referendum.

In that way, they are like the rest of Britain. While the vote may alter the balance of power in British politics, increase the likelihood that the U.K. will leave the European Union and weaken the nation's economy and currency, the people of England, Wales and Northern Ireland will have no say in the outcome. Only residents of Scotland are eligible to cast ballots.

CONSTITUTIONAL CHAOS:

Britain's left-leaning Labour Party would be the biggest political victim of independence—it is often joked there are more pandas in Edinburgh's zoo than there are Conservative Party lawmakers in Scotland. Scottish voters elected 41 Labour members of Parliament in the 2010 election and only one Conservative.

If the next general election due in May were held today, eliminating Scottish votes would give Prime Minister David Cameron's Conservatives a 37-seat majority win.

That could drag Britain toward yet another high-stakes vote—on whether the country as a whole should leave the EU. Cameron has promised a referendum to appease voters concerned about immigration and meddling by bureaucrats in Brussels. Scotland has been very pro-EU, so losing its votes would weaken the camp that wants Britain to stay.

Leaving the EU could have huge consequences for Britain. The EU guarantees freedom of movement for people, goods and money, a big advantage for companies that want to do business across the bloc, which with its 500 million people is the world's largest combined economy. If Britain were to leave the bloc, multinational companies that have their EU headquarters in London—from Starbucks to many of the world's biggest banks—may seek to relocate, taking money and jobs with them.

"These are very crucial times for the U.K.," said Patrick Dunleavy, a professor of political science at the London School of Economics. "The U.K. has been united for 300 years and it's been in the European Union since 1973. These two referenda, plus the general election all coming very close together, one way or another, we're going to have five years of constitutional chaos."

FINANCIAL UNKNOWNS:

More immediately, the loss of Scotland could hurt Britain through the amount of financial uncertainty it would generate over the next 18 months—the time it would take Scotland to sever its ties with Britain. During that period, policymakers would have to agree on whether Scotland would continue to use the pound as its currency as well as how to split British public debt and North Sea oil revenue.

The currency question is the murkiest. While independence leaders say they will continue to use the pound, politicians in London have ruled out a currency union.

"It would be a fairly long 18 months," said Monique Ebell, an economist at the National Institute of Economic and Social Research.

Because the result of the talks would affect the value of the pound, foreign investors in Britain could delay big decisions—opening a factory, for example, or hiring new staff— until a time when they can better gauge the risks and costs.

Investment bank Goldman Sachs last week warned that while there was no reason an independent Scotland couldn't prosper in the long-run, "in the short-to-medium-term, the consequences of a surprise `Yes' vote for the Scottish economy, and for the U.K. more broadly, could be severely negative."

AP

A sign welcoming motorists to Scotland at Berwick Upon Tweed, England, Monday, Sept. 8, 2014.

Kevin Daly, Goldman Sachs' chief U.K. economist, said that uncertainty about the pound's future value could trigger a run on the currency. The Bank of England is working on contingency plans to manage the pound in the event of a Yes vote.

The potential for trouble was made clear on Monday, when the pound nosedived after a poll showed the No campaign had lost its lead. The pound shed two cents to trade at $1.6130, the lowest since November.

"Our base view is the proposal will be defeated," said Bill O'Neill, the head of the U.K. investment office at UBS Wealth Management. "But clearly the market will be watching for the polls."

The people of Berwick, meanwhile, are increasingly concerned. What would happen if there were suddenly a border between them and their Scottish neighbors? What happens if you suddenly need a passport to get across the few miles separating the town and Scotland?

In his shop, surrounded by items inspired as much by "Braveheart" as English icons like London phone booths, Gavin Jones can't help but worry.

"It adds complexity and cost, for no additional revenue" Jones said of separation. "We're Berwickers. We're neither English, nor Scottish."

That is true for now at least.

Good Housekeeping

Keep care of kitchen appliances on front burner

By ANGIE HICKS
ANGIE'S LIST

Next time you use your fridge, dishwasher or stove, be careful that you're not unknowingly making it vulnerable to an early breakdown.

Appliance repair pros who've earned top ratings from Angie's List members offer tips for making sure your kitchen appliances meet or exceed their expected life spans:

STOVE GUIDELINES

- Average life span: 10 to 15 years.
- Common repairs and costs:
  - Igniter cleaning or failure, $110 to $200
  - Broken control board, $260 or more
  - Bake element problems, $160 or more
- Basic maintenance tips:

Keep your stove clean, but avoid getting cleaning fluid or water into dials and switches, which are connected to electrical components.

Avoid using aluminum foil under the oven's bake element or oven coil. Appliance technicians say the reflective surface can disrupt the heat level, leading to over- or under-cooked food.

- Repair or replace? Consider replacing if you're investing more than half the price of new unit into a repair.
- What to budget for a new stove: $650 to $2,000.

FRIDGE GUIDELINES

- Average life span: Six to 15 years.
- Common repairs and cost:

4Ice maker failure, $275 to $325
4Main control board failure, $260 or more
4Clogged drain line, $110 or more

- Basic maintenance tips:

Clean the condenser coils at least once a year and more often if you have pets. The coils are typically under or behind the unit, and sometimes on top. Over time, they collect dust, debris and pet hair. A dirty condenser makes it difficult for the refrigerator to transfer heat from within to the outside, which wastes energy and can cause premature breakdown. You can buy refrigerator coil brushes online or at hardware stores or you may be able to clean them by hand and with your vacuum cleaner.

Allow for adequate air flow. Unless your unit is designed for in-cabinet installation, putting a fridge in a tight-fitting space without ventilation room can cause the compressor to overheat and fail. To properly remove heat, most fridges need several inches of space around the top and sides.

- Repair or replace? Factor in the unit's age and performance history. A compressor failure is almost always a sure sign that the fridge should be replaced.
- What to budget for a new fridge: $900 to $8,000.

DISHWASHER GUIDELINES

- Average life span: Eight to 10 years.
- Common repairs and cost:
  - Drain pump cleaning, $100 to $300
  - Water inlet valve, $160 or more
  - Control board failure, $190 or more
- Basic maintenance tips:

Scrape dishes before loading. Larger food clumps can clog washer arms and pump screens. However, many appliance technicians debate just how clean dishes should be before you wash them in the dishwasher. Some say detergent requires something to adhere to, or it will leave residue on the dishes and dishwasher interior.

Don't overdo soap. Repair pros say people commonly use too much dishwasher detergent, which builds up in the machine, putting a strain on the pump/motor assembly, spray arm and other components.

- Repair or replace? If the unit has rust, rot or corrosion, or if you're looking at a repair equal to or more than half the cost of a new dishwasher, you should replace it.
- What to budget for a new dishwasher: $400 to $700.

KANSAS CITY STAR/MCT
Brenda Knehans of Shawnee, Missouri, checks a six-burner, 36-inch Bertazzoni range.

BEFORE YOU HIRE AN APPLIANCE TECHNICIAN:

- Make sure the company is appropriately licensed, insured and bonded.
- Confirm that it has good online reviews from consumers on a trusted site.
- Get several estimates and compare bids based on price, parts, labor and warranty.
- Make sure you understand all costs before agreeing to work.

Angie Hicks is the founder of Angie's List, a resource for local consumer reviews on everything from home repair to health care. Follow her on Twitter @Angie_Hicks.

YOUR PLACE

Replacing chipped tile with vinyl not a DIY job

By ALAN J. HEAVENS
THE PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER

Question: My townhouse is built on a slab, and I have ceramic tile in the kitchen. A few of the tiles have chips where items were dropped.

Is it possible to have the ceramic tile removed and replaced with vinyl?

This is not a job I would do myself; I would hire a professional. Just looking for some ideas and what the pros and cons might be.

Answer: I'm glad you will be hiring a professional, because I've seen so many botched jobs by amateurs.

It can be done. I assume the tiles are in a mortar bed on the slab. At least that's pretty much what I've seen over the years.

Removing those tiles will be a tough, messy job, but contractors have the equipment to do so quickly and efficiently.

It is, however, very expensive, and I would recommend several estimates before proceeding. (I know this suggestion will elicit many reader comments about trouble getting people to call back.)

Laying vinyl flooring over the existing floor is a possibility, but two concerns are leveling the surface and increasing the thickness—making it higher, so doors and trim have to be adjusted.

Good-quality vinyl flooring installed on an existing surface often does not require underlayment, so that reduces the chance of adding to the floor height.

The contractor will likely level the existing ceramic-tile floor with a self-leveling compound that will fill in the grout lines.

The chipped tiles should be replaced and filled in, as well, to guarantee a level surface for the new vinyl floor.

Or, if you had matching tiles to replace the chipped ones, a contractor could remove and replace them and clean the floor and grout lines to make everything look new.

My rule: Always buy a couple of extra boxes of tile to keep on hand in the event a plumbing disaster creates a need.

It has for me, and I never want to go through that again. Tile, it seems, has a short life when it comes to style, and even thickness.

There are online resources for older tile, and some of it is being reproduced, but it is usually pricier than new flooring.

Contact Alan J. Heavens at aheavens@phillynews.com or write him at The Philadelphia Inquirer*, Box 8263, Philadelphia PA 19101. Volume prohibits individual replies.*

COMFORT FOODS

Chicken and Macaroni Soup

September and Soup: Two good "S" words that just seem to say "Supper" when combined!

1 cup chopped onion
1 cup shredded carrots
1 (10 3/4-ounce) can reduced-fat cream of chicken soup
1 (14-ounce) can lower-sodium chicken broth
1/3 cup nonfat dry milk powder
1 teaspoon dried parsley flakes
1 1/2 cups diced cooked chicken breast
1/2 cup frozen peas
1/3 cup uncooked elbow macaroni

1. In a medium saucepan sprayed with butter-flavored cooking spray, saute onion and carrots for 8 minutes.

2. Stir in chicken soup, chicken broth, dry milk powder and parsley flakes. Add chicken, peas and uncooked macaroni. Mix well to combine.

3. Continue cooking for 8 to 10 minutes or until macaroni is tender and mixture is heated through, stirring occasionally. Makes 4 (1 1/3 cup) servings.

• Each serving equals: 223 calories, 3g fat, 24g protein, 25g carb., 540mg sodium, 3g fiber; Diabetic Exchanges: 2 Meat, 1 Starch, 1 Vegetable. ***(Healthy Exchanges/ King Features Synd., Inc.)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
September and Soup: Two good "S" words that just seem to say "Supper" when combined!

Life & Style

Schwarzenegger reveals portrait by Austrian artist

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP)—Former Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger lifted the curtain on his official portrait Monday, revealing a photograph-like giant image of the onetime bodybuilder standing in front of the official California seal.

Schwarzenegger unveiled the portrait at a ceremony in the state Capitol in which he made a rare appearance in Sacramento nearly four years after he left office.

The oversized portrait of a youthful Schwarzenegger, which will eventually hang on the third floor, was painted by Austrian artist Gottfried Helnwein, a realist who previously illustrated Andy Warhol and John F. Kennedy.

Schwarzenegger, a movie star before he ran for governor in the chaotic recall election of 2003, said he owes all his successes in life to California, which he called a mythical place "where nothing is impossible." As a boy growing up in Austria, he dreamed about the state, he said.

"I dreamt about California every day, and I knew that one day I would have to come here to this beautiful state if I wanted to make my dreams a reality," he said.

Schwarzenegger said that while he always dreamed big, he never envisioned his portrait hanging in the state Capitol, joking "I might have envisioned a sculpture on Muscle Beach."

Two of Schwarzenegger's five children attended the unveiling, Christopher, 16, and Patrick, 20, which also included political notables including at least three former speakers of the state Assembly, Willie Brown, Bob Hertzberg and Fabian Nunez. He also posed for photos with former staff and lawmakers and hugged 28-year-old John Masterson, who has Down syndrome and worked in the governor's mailroom.

Lt. Gov. Gavin Newsom said the massive image of Schwarzenegger is appropriate because Schwarzenegger is "larger than life."

Singer Jerry Garcia "had a wonderful quote saying, `You don't want to be the best of the best. You want to be the only one that does what you do,' " Newsom said. "And it's a way to describe Arnold Schwarzenegger."

Senate President Pro Tem Darrell Steinberg, D-Sacramento, called it "just right."

"I thought it was very dignified. It actually looked like a photograph to me," he said.

True to his outsized life, Schwarzenegger's portrait is larger than those of other modern-day governors, roughly half a foot wider and a foot taller than his predecessor, according to the Department of General Services. The former governor paid for the portrait himself at an undisclosed cost.

The portrait unveiling followed an event earlier Monday in which Schwarzenegger's University of Southern California-based institute hosted a climate symposium that also featured Gov. Jerry Brown, a Democrat.

The seminar highlighted the state's aggressive efforts to tackle issues such as reducing carbon emissions.

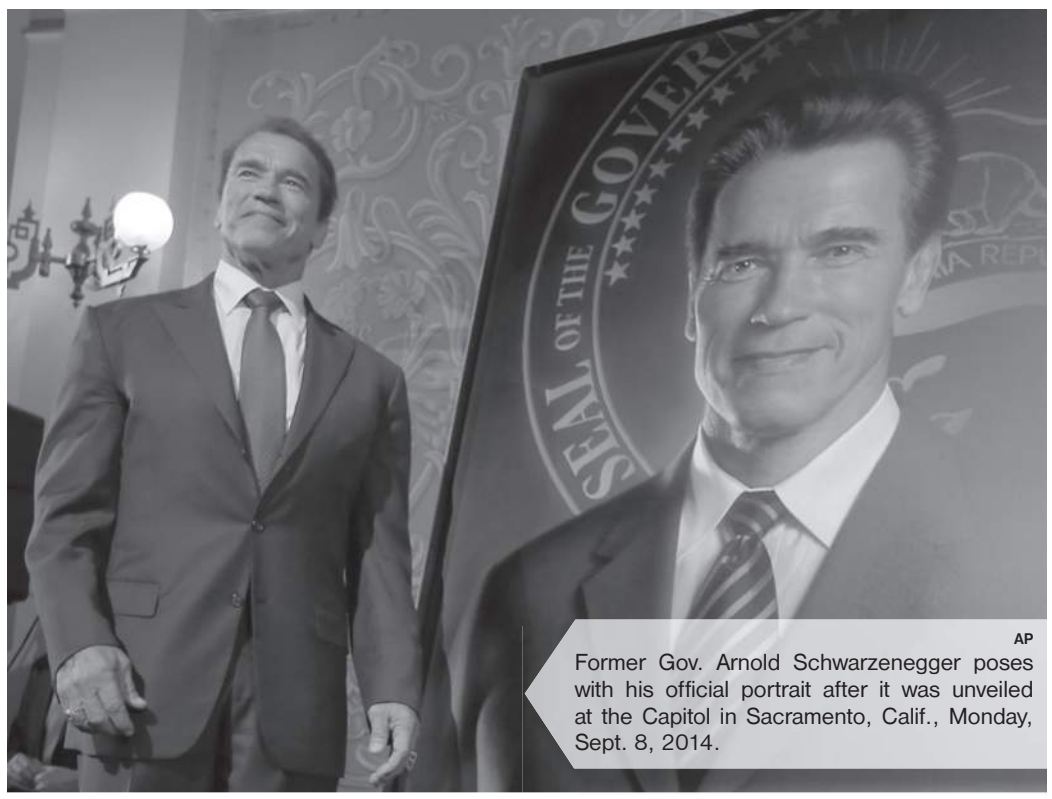
"While the politicians in Washington can't get anything done because of being stuck in these ideological foxholes, we here in California have two governors from two different parties, together in the same room fighting for the same green energy future," Schwarzenegger said at the summit.

Organizers are using the state's policies to prompt further action ahead of United Nations climate-change conferences in Peru and Paris.

During his tenure, Schwarzenegger signed California's landmark 2006 global-warming law, AB32, which paved the way for the state's system of selling carbon pollution credits aimed at reducing emissions.

Brown praised Schwarzenegger's accomplishment in winning bipartisan support for the climate change law.

"To get AB32 through the California legislature, that is heavy lifting, and I don't think anyone should underestimate that. I'm not sure any other governor might have done this," he said at the symposium.



AP

Former Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger poses with his official portrait after it was unveiled at the Capitol in Sacramento, Calif., Monday, Sept. 8, 2014.

Fox hosts' banter about Rice video draws criticism

AP

In this May 1, 2014, file photo, Baltimore Ravens football player Ray Rice holds hands with his wife, Janay Palmer, as they arrive at Atlantic County Criminal Courthouse in Mays Landing, N.J.

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Banter by two Fox News Channel hosts about video showing football player Ray Rice hitting his future wife has come under fire.

The "Fox & Friends" hosts, Brian Kilmeade and Steve Doocy, made their on-air comments Monday while discussing newly released video showing Rice hitting Janay Palmer in an elevator in February.

Kilmeade said that the lesson to be learned was, in his words, "take the stairs."

Doocy responded that the message is to remember that elevators include cameras.

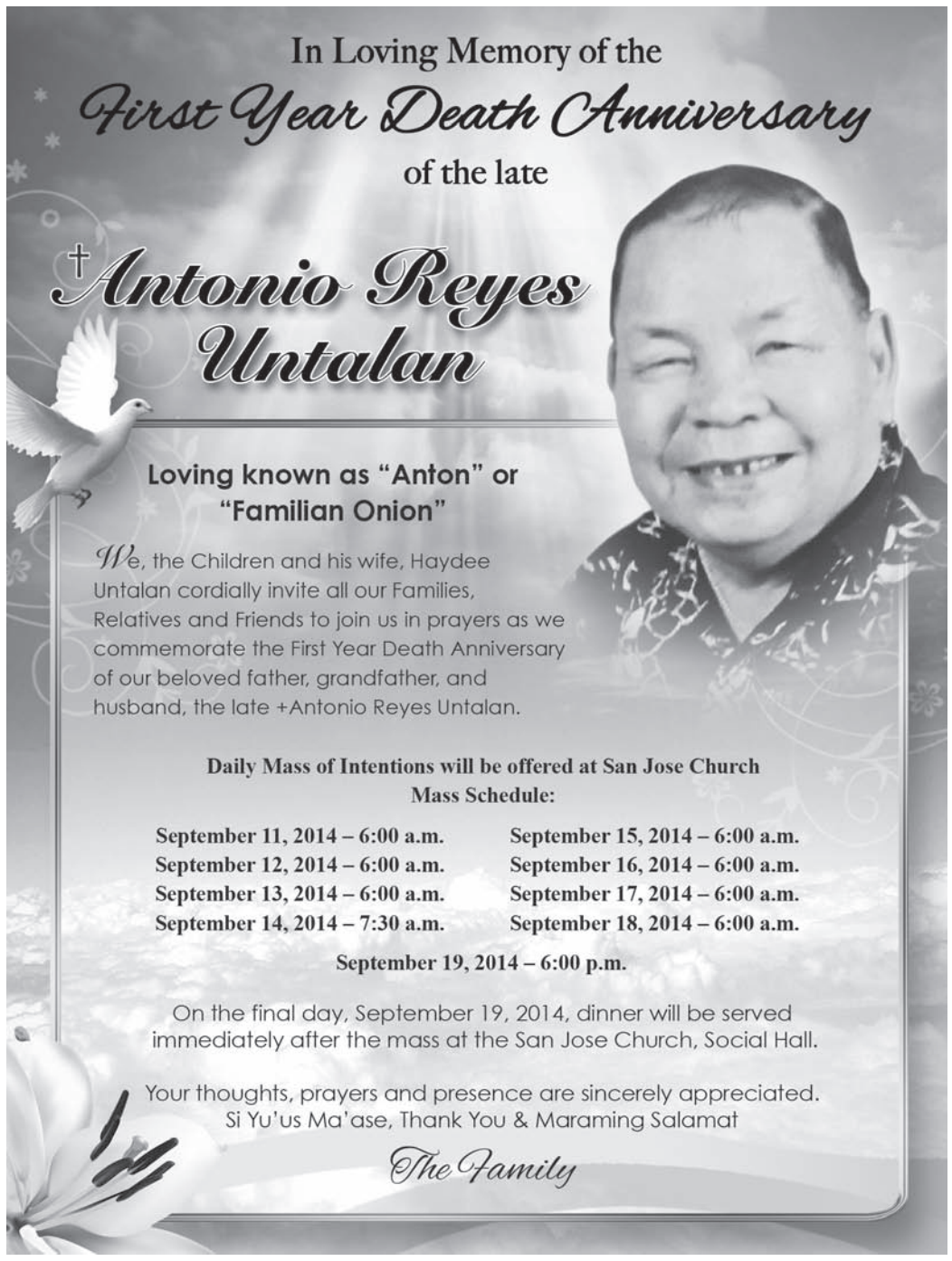
The comments, which were criticized as inappropriate by media observers and in online posts, will be discussed on Tuesday's "Fox & Friends," the channel said.

Rice was let go by the Baltimore Ravens on Monday and suspended indefinitely by the NFL after the video's release. His lawyer, Michael Diamondstein, declined to comment.

The video clip, released by TMZ Sports, shows Rice and Palmer in an elevator at an Atlantic City casino. Each hits the other before Rice knocks Palmer off her feet and unconscious, according to police.

Months ago, a TMZ video showed Rice dragging Palmer from the elevator at the Revel casino, which closed Sept. 2.

He had been charged with felony aggravated assault in the case, but in May he was accepted into a pretrial intervention program that allowed him to avoid jail time and could lead to the charge being purged from his record.


In Loving Memory of the
First Year Death Anniversary
of the late
†Antonio Reyes Untalan
Loving known as "Anton" or "Familian Onion"
We, the Children and his wife, Haydee Untalan cordially invite all our Families, Relatives and Friends to join us in prayers as we commemorate the First Year Death Anniversary of our beloved father, grandfather, and husband, the late +Antonio Reyes Untalan.
Daily Mass of Intentions will be offered at San Jose Church
Mass Schedule:
September 11, 2014 – 6:00 a.m.
September 12, 2014 – 6:00 a.m.
September 13, 2014 – 6:00 a.m.
September 14, 2014 – 7:30 a.m.
September 15, 2014 – 6:00 a.m.
September 16, 2014 – 6:00 a.m.
September 17, 2014 – 6:00 a.m.
September 18, 2014 – 6:00 a.m.
September 19, 2014 – 6:00 p.m.
On the final day, September 19, 2014, dinner will be served immediately after the mass at the San Jose Church, Social Hall.
Your thoughts, prayers and presence are sincerely appreciated.
Si Yu'us Ma'ase, Thank You & Maraming Salamat
The Family

Mathematical minds multiply at Toronto film fest

TORONTO (AP)—In the Stephen Hawking biopic "The Theory of Everything," two college girls rush into a '60s-era Cambridge party before the sight of the attendees stops them in their tracks.

"Oh, dear. Scientists."

So could the reaction be confronting this year's Toronto International Film Festival, where two of the most lauded and talked-about films are portraits of elite mathematical minds, curtesy of Benedict Cumberbatch and Eddie Redmayne. In "The Theory of Everything," Redmayne plays theoretical physicist Stephen Hawking; in "The Imitation Game," Cumberbatch plays British mathematician and World War II code breaker Alan Turing.

After glowing receptions in Toronto, both films are expected to be major players on Hollywood's awards circuit this fall following their theatrical openings. ("Theory" is due out Nov. 7. "Imitation Game" follows two weeks later.) Redmayne and Cumberbatch are already calculated by pundits to be favorites for a best-actor Oscar nomination.

"A lot of people talk about it as being a competitor to our film," Cumberbatch said in an interview. "I don't like thinking of films being in competition with each other, full stop. It's absurd. As long as they're both able to find an audience, it's not a problem."

In an interesting twist, Cumberbatch (who is friends with Redmayne) has played Hawking before in a BAFTA-nominated 2004 BBC film—the only prior Hawking biopic.

In "The Theory of Everything," director James Marsh (best known for the documentaries "Man on Wire" and "Project Nim") follows Hawking's scientific growth in tandem with his physical deterioration caused by a motor neurone disease. Redmayne plays Hawking through each step of the illness, transforming from a gawky young man to wheelchair-bound father of three.

AP

Eddie Redmayne, from left, and James Marsh and Felicity Jones attend the premiere for "The Theory of Everything" on day 4 of the Toronto International Film Festival at the TIFF Bell Lightbox on Sunday, Sept. 7, 2014, in Toronto.

"I attempted to read and comprehend as much as I possibly could of his work, which wasn't very much," Redmayne said on stage after the film's premiere.

The 32-year-old actor spent five months researching the role, included meeting Hawking shortly before filming began.

"I went in genuinely petrified," said Redmayne. "I basically spent the first 25 minutes vomiting forth information about Stephen Hawking to Stephen Hawking."

Such a meeting wasn't possible for Cumberbatch with Turing, who committed suicide in 1954. His role to breaking the German's elaborate code—Winston Churchill said he made the single greatest contribution to the war—has only recently begun to be widely recognized. But Turing's story—and "The Imitation Game"—is also about him being a closeted gay man at time when homosexuality was criminalized.

"Alan is, compared to his achievements, relatively obscure, which is one of the really shaming aspects of what happened to him," says Cumberbatch.

Curiously, films about cold math tend to be quite emotional, often verging on sentimentality—movies such as "Good Will Hunting," with Matt Damon's janitor genius, and Ron Howard's Oscar-winning "A Beautiful Mind," about Nobel-winner John Nash. Rare is the film that delves deeply into numbers, like Darren Aronofsky's obsessive "Pi."

Usually, the movies like math most for handsome backgrounds of chalkboard equations and the (more comprehendible) personal lives behind the science.

A third film at Toronto, Ed Zwick's "Pawn Sacrifice," dramatizes chess prodigy Bobby Fischer (Tobey Maguire) in his battles against the Soviet Union's Boris Spassky (Liev Schreiber). As a biopic of Fisher, it marvels at the kind of brain that can synthesize all the possible moves in chess, and the game's effect on Fischer's mental health.

"There are more 40-move games than stars in the galaxy," says William Lombardy (Peter Sarsgaard), a Catholic priest and chess grandmaster, in the film. "This game can take you right to the edge."

Playing such unique thinkers can be challenging to any actor, since their subject's realm of thought is so unfathomable and mysterious. As he did when he played Hawking, Cumberbatch says he tried to "brush up" on his algebra.

"I'm not stupid but I'm not that smart. So I can at least lend something of that within the performance, like maybe the alacrity of thought, making fast connections," says Cumberbatch. "But when you actually start talking about the language he used to get to those stunning conclusions, you might as well ask me to write my name in Mandarin. It's a whole new world of alphabet and understanding."

While performing characters with such high IQs may be daunting, it can be even more so to sit in judgment of them. "The Theory of Everything" screenwriter Anthony McCarten said they have already screened the film for Hawking.

"His exact words were `Broadly true,'" said screenwriter Anthony McCarten. "We'll take that."

Richards on new book, Stones tour, solo music

By MESFIN FEKADU
AP MUSIC WRITER

NEW YORK (AP)—There's one person who knew Keith Richards would become Keith Richards: his grandfather.

The Rolling Stone member said Augustus Theodore Dupree introduced him to the guitar and taught him about music as a child growing up in England.

"I think in a way he sort of had plans for me I wasn't aware of," Richards said. "He turned me on to the guitar and he did it in a subtle way."

The rock icon details his relationship with his grandfather in "Gus & Me," his children's book out Tuesday.

"He was a saxophone player. He got gassed in the First World War and he couldn't blow anymore, so he went to fiddle. He was playing way into his 60s—so am I," 70-year-old Richards said, laughing.

Richards has four children and five grandchildren. His daughter Theodora Dupree Richards—named after Gus—worked on the illustration for the book.

In a recent interview at Germano Studios—where he recorded his upcoming solo album—Richards talked about writing books, new music, touring with the Stones in 2015 and social media.

AP

This undated image released by Mindless Records shows Keith Richards, of The Rolling Stones, left, with his daughter Theodora Richards.

AP: Why did you decide to write this book?

Richards: My publishers first came up with this idea. They said, "There's certain chapters about your grandfather that could make a great children's book." Children's book? This is not my line (laughs). ... And just about that same time my eldest daughter ... she said, "Guess what?" And I know that look in a woman's eyes. "Don't tell me you're pregnant, which means fifth grandchild." ... I thought, "Hey, there's something to be said for this" and I've always wanted to give my ole grandfather Gus, bless him, a little more memorial than he's had.

AP: Your 2010 memoir, "Life," was a commercial and critical success. Was there any pressure to match it with "Gus & Me"?

Richards: The initial idea did come from the publishers, so you know, "Maybe Keith can sell a few more books." That's their business after all. Nine times out of 10 I would have said forget about it. I'm not going there. But because of the circumstances and having another grandchild, everything was sort of falling into place. I said, "Damn it. Go for it."

AP: Do you want to write more books?

Richards: I don't know. There's been plenty of talk about doing volume two (to "Life") because a lot of stuff got left out. I may save that for a little later. ... I had no intention of doing "Life," but they kept bugging me, "C'mon, you've got to tell the story. Here's a lot of money." OK, twist my arm. And I found out I could articulate things pretty well (and) tell a good story.

AP: The Stones are heading to Australia in October. Are you excited?

Richards: The first thing is the jetlag. I figured it out, I'm going to go via Fiji, where I'm going to chop down the tree that I fell out of the last time I was there (he got a concussion in 2006 after the fall) and spend a few days getting rid of the jetlag, and then I can pop down to Australia. Because the jetlag is the hardest thing around trips like that. Everybody's waking up and tripping over each other and falling asleep in rehearsals.

AP: Are you going to tour more dates?

Richards: They've got South America lined up in February, Buenos Aires, Peru. And after that, I know what the Stones tours are like, they tend to get extended.

AP: So could the band potentially tour most of 2015?

Richards: It sounds like that.

AP: Are you working on music?

Richards: I have a solo record finished, but I don't want to put it out while the Stones are working, so I'm thinking next June.

AP: What was the process like?

Richards: We had no rush. I think we spent a couple of years. (Producer) Steve (Jordan) and I are always working somewhere else, but every month or two we'd come down here and do a couple a day and knock off a couple of tracks. ... Nearly every record I've made is ... `You've got another five days,' but this one we're taking our time.

AP: How's recording music today different compared to years ago?

Richards: Technology—it's changed enormously. ...I find that some of the technology is very confusing, especially the digital stuff.

AP: Speaking of technology, are you a fan of social media?

Richards: I stay well away. I have no computer at all. I have a little tablet that I knock around with. No passwords. I mean, I don't want to be hacked to death.

AP: Have you heard about the recent leaking of photos of nude celebrities?

Richards: The more I hear about it the more I'm sure I'm right.

Neil Patrick Harris gets married in Italy

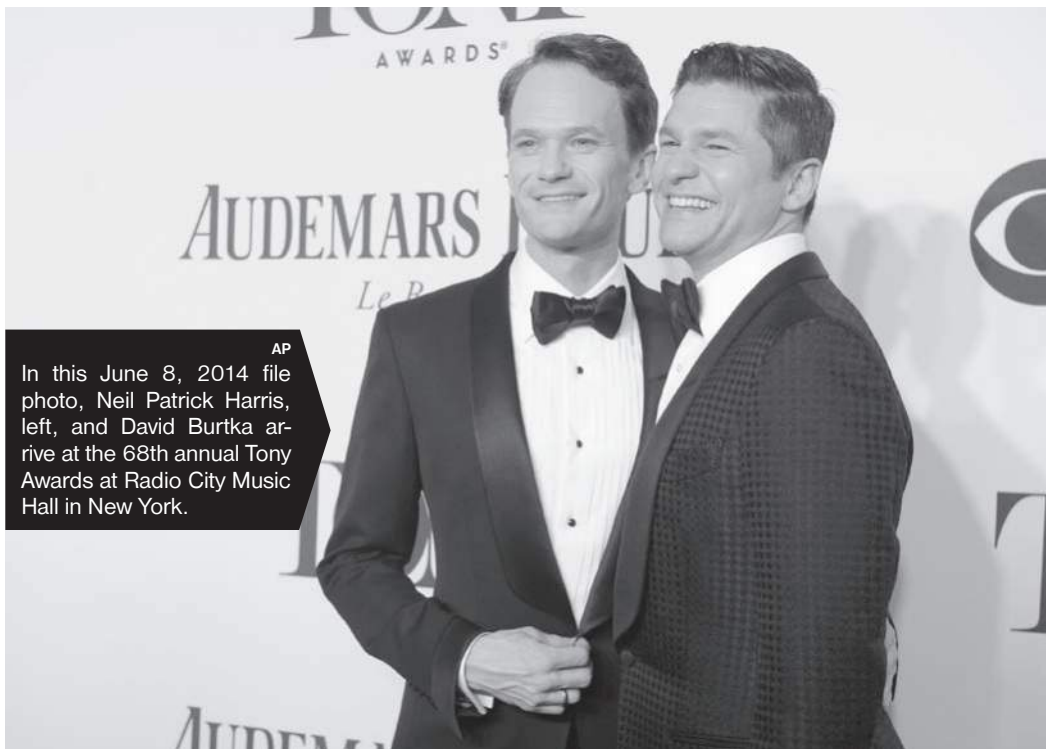
NEW YORK (AP)—Kim Kardashian and Kanye West aren't the only ones who tied the knot this year in Italy. So did Neil Patrick Harris and David Burtka.

The "How I Met Your Mother" star and his actor-chef groom were married Saturday in Italy. They'd been dating for 10 years and are parents to 3-year-old twins, Gideon and Harper. The grooms wore custom Tom Ford tuxedos and Elton John performed at the reception.

"Yup, we put the 'n' and 'd' in 'husband,'" Harris tweeted Monday. His publicist later confirmed the news.

Harris, 41, just won a Tony Award for his role in "Hedwig and the Angry Inch." He has been in several Broadway productions, including "Assassins," "Proof" and as the exuberant master of ceremonies in "Cabaret."

Burtka, 39, played Tulsa in the Bernadette Peters-led revival of "Gypsy," was seen off-Broadway in "The Play About the Baby" and is also a chef.



AP
In this June 8, 2014 file photo, Neil Patrick Harris, left, and David Burtka arrive at the 68th annual Tony Awards at Radio City Music Hall in New York.

"How I Met Your Mother" producer Pam Fryman officiated at the wedding. Same-sex marriages are not allowed in Italy so it was not legally binding in that country.

The next celebrity couple to pick Italy to marry is George Clooney and human rights lawyer Amal Alamuddin, who will tie the knot in Venice in a couple of weeks.

Mel Brooks brings 6th finger to Hollywood ceremony

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Mel Brooks has given the finger to Hollywood.

The extra finger, that is.

Brooks, the writer, producer and actor responsible for the classic movie comedies "The Producers," "Blazing Saddles" and "Young Frankenstein," sank his hands and feet into cement in front of the TCL Chinese Theatre in Hollywood on Monday—a ritual followed by decades of movie legends.

But Brooks, who's 88, wore a fake sixth finger on his left hand.

He said he left the unique mark "just in case somebody from Des Moines, Iowa, says `Harry! Harry! Look, Mel Brooks has six fingers on his left hand!'"

The ceremony was held in conjunction with Tuesday's release of "Young Frankenstein" on Blu-ray to mark the movie's 40th anniversary.

AP
Director/Comedian Mel Brooks displays his cement-covered hands, including one with a prosthetic finger, during his Hand and Footprint ceremony marking the 40th anniversary of the movie "Young Frankenstein," in front of the TCL Chinese Theatre in the Hollywood section of Los Angeles on Monday, Sept. 8, 2014.

Fire damages Magic Mountain roller coaster

SANTA CLARITA, Calif. (AP)—A fire on the recently closed Colossus ride at Southern California's Six Flags Magic Mountain park has collapsed part of the famous wooden roller coaster, but no injuries are reported.

Los Angeles County firefighters got the call around 1:30 p.m. Monday and doused the fire in about a half-hour.

The top of the lift hill on the 125-foot-tall wooden coaster collapsed after flames charred it.

Magic Mountain says workers were disassembling the ride at the time of the fire.

Authorities are trying to determine the cause.

Colossus was the world's tallest and fastest roller coaster when it opened in 1978. It closed on Aug. 17 and will be turned into a longer looping wood and steel coaster called Twisted Colossus that opens next spring.

No Broadway dimming of lights for Joan Rivers

NEW YORK (AP)—Despite being a long champion of New York theater, Joan Rivers will not be memorialized by the dimming of Broadway's lights.

The Broadway League, which represents theater owners and producers, has decided that Rivers did not meet the criteria for the honor.

Rivers, who died Thursday at 81, was known primarily as a TV actress and comedian, though she often attended Broadway and off-Broadway shows and earned a Tony Award nomination.

Some celebrities who have been recently granted the honor include Philip Seymour Hoffman and James Gandolfini, whose film careers often overshadowed their theater contributions.

Rivers wrote and starred in the 1971 quick-to-close "Fun City," was in Neil Simon's "Broadway Bound" in 1988, and wrote and starred in "Sally Marr.And Her Escorts" in 1994, where she earned her Tony nod.

Michael C. Hall to be 'Hedwig and the Angry Inch'

NEW YORK (AP)—Michael C. Hall's next step is going to be a gender bending one—the former "Dexter" star will play the rock chanteuse at the center of "Hedwig and the Angry Inch" on Broadway.

Hall

Producers of the Tony Award-winning musical revival said Monday that Hall will pull on a miniskirt and play the German transsexual Hedwig at the Belasco Theatre starting Oct. 16, through Jan. 4.

Hall will be taking over from Andrew Rannells, the Tony Award-nominated star of "The Book of Mormon" on Broadway and HBO's "Girls." Rannells, in turn, replaced Tony-winner and "How I Met Your Mother" star Neil Patrick Harris. Rannells ends his run Oct. 12.

Hall was one of an impressive quartet of actors on Broadway starring in Will Eno's play "The Realistic Joneses" this spring. The former Showtime sociopath joined Toni Collette, Marisa Tomei and Tracy Letts.

Hall has sung onstage before: He took over from Alan Cumming as the white-faced emcee in the last revival of "Cabaret," a part he played almost 500 times. Now he'll be rocking out tunes including "Sugar Daddy" and "Wicked Little Town" in platform heels.

In his first Broadway show, he was an understudy in David Hare's "Skylight" in 1996. His break-out roles—as a funeral director on HBO's "Six Feet Under" and then "Dexter"—earned Hall Emmy Award nominations.

Mixed-race baby would be a surprise but not an outcast

DEAR ABBY: I am five months pregnant with my second child and engaged to a wonderful man, "Tony." We get along well with my ex-husband with whom I share custody of my first child. But problems may arise when the baby is born.

I had a night of sex with a friend who is of a different race. Tony knows about it and the possibility that the baby will be mixed. He feels strongly that he will help me raise the child as his own.

My family knows nothing about this, nor does my ex. How should I handle the possible backlash and confusion if this child is, indeed, the product of my one-night stand?

SCARED IN THE SOUTH

DEAR SCARED: Say nothing prematurely. If your baby turns out to be mixed race, deal with it matter-of-factly. While there may be confusion, all you have to do is say that you and Tony plan to raise this child together in a loving family. If they wish to participate, they are welcome. If not, make it clear that you will do it without their help.

Your baby will not be alone. According to the Census Bureau, the population of mixed-race Americans grew 32 percent from 2000 to 2010.

DEAR ABBY: My girlfriend, "Donna," and I have been together for eight years. We have a great relationship, respect each other and never argue. She has a low-paying job, and I don't ask much of her in regard to rent or other bills, but she does buy a few groceries now and then.

I have always told Donna that if she ever needs money, all she has to do is ask me and I'll help with what I can. My dilemma is that she "borrowed" about $50 in change I had been saving in a coffee can and didn't tell me. When I asked her about it, she said she'd put it back. That was more than a month ago.

Am I being petty? I'd hate for this to become an issue between us. Should I say something again, or just wait to see what Donna does?

SHORTCHANGED GUY

DEAR SHORTCHANGED: That Donna would take the money, not tell you, and not pay it back or start "feeding the kitty" is disappointing. Because it bothers you to the point of writing to me, tell her what's on your mind. If you don't, it will fester until there is an eruption. Better to air this now, before it grows out of proportion.

DEAR ABBY: Upon going into a public women's restroom where the doors of the stalls are closed, what is the polite way to check if someone is in a stall? Should I try to open the door or look under to see if there are feet?

GOTTA GO IN CALIFORNIA

DEAR GOTTA: The time-honored, foolproof method is to check if there are feet. It's less disruptive than pushing on the door, which might startle an occupant.

To receive a collection of Abby's most memorable – and most frequently requested – poems and essays, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby – Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. Shipping and handling are included in the price.

DEAR ABBY

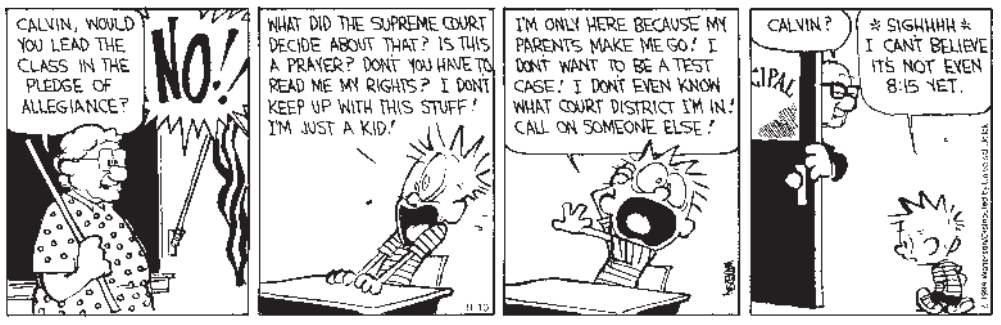
By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


CALVIN, WOULD YOU LEAD THE CLASS IN THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE?
NO!
WHAT DID THE SUPREME COURT DECIDE ABOUT THAT? IS THIS A PRAYER? DON'T YOU HAVE TO READ ME MY RIGHTS? I DON'T KEEP UP WITH THIS STUFF! I'M JUST A KID!
I'M ONLY HERE BECAUSE MY PARENTS MAKE ME GO! I DON'T WANT TO BE A TEST CASE! I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHAT COURT DISTRICT I'M IN! CALL ON SOMEONE ELSE!
CALVIN?
* SIGHHHH * I CAN'T BELIEVE IT'S NOT EVEN 8:15 YET.

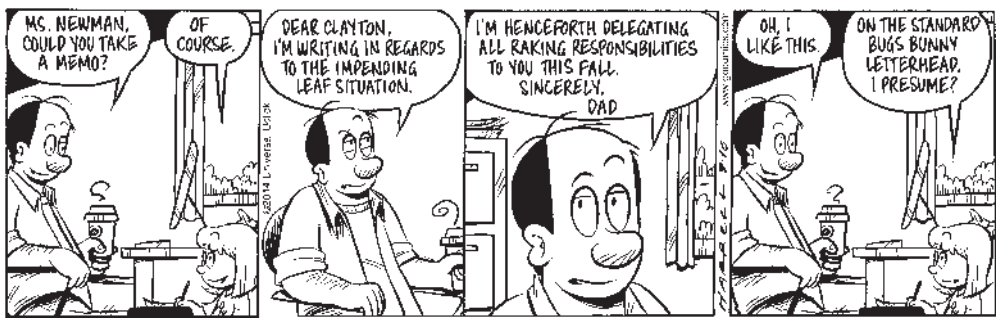
Garfield®

By Jim Davis

WHAT A GREAT NIGHT, HUH, GARFIELD?
MY AUNT WALBURGA USED TO SAY THE STARS WERE TINY FAIRIES WHO WATCH OVER US AND BRING US GOOD LUCK
THEN SHE STEPPED RIGHT OFF THE EDGE OF THE CANYON
I'M GOING HOME NOW

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


MS. NEWMAN, COULD YOU TAKE A MEMO?
OF COURSE.
DEAR CLAYTON, I'M WRITING IN REGARDS TO THE IMPENDING LEAF SITUATION.
I'M HENCEFORTH DELEGATING ALL RAKING RESPONSIBILITIES TO YOU THIS FALL. SINCERELY, DAD
OH, I LIKE THIS.
ON THE STANDARD BUGS BUNNY LETTERHEAD, I PRESUME?

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

AT FIRST, I USED A LOT OF EXCLAMATION POINTS. BUT AFTER A WHILE, THE EFFECT WORE OFF.
I NEEDED SOMETHING STRONGER, THEN SOMEONE TURNED ME ON TO CAPS-LOCK. BUT THAT DIDN'T LAST LONG, EITHER.
NOW I'M HOOKED ON 3-D ANIMATED SCREAMING EMOTICONS!
AUGH!

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

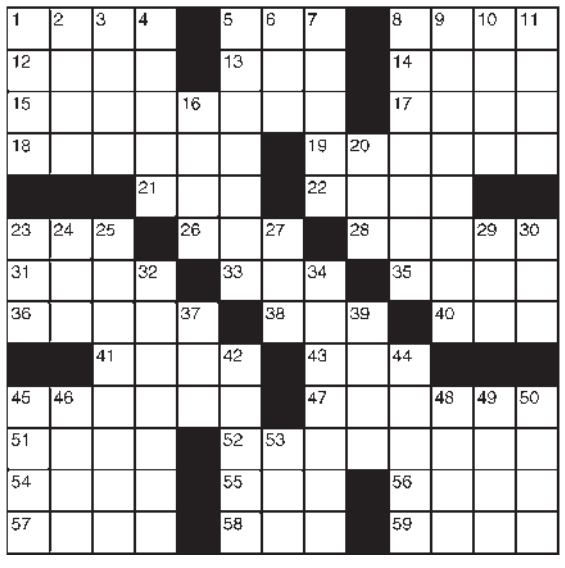
ACROSS
1 Walesa of Poland
5 Young man
8 Request earnestly
12 Sore
13 Flightless bird
14 Crazy
15 St. Patrick's Day symbol
17 Beige
18 Opine rudely
19 Hears reveille
21 Hot tub
22 Obi
23 Scrooge's interjection
26 Curved path
28 Long
31 Caspian feeder
33 Wall Street stat, with "The"
35 Colorless
36 Barber's tool
38 Apprehend
40 Last mo.
41 Entrance
43 Ailing
45 Yell "You're not funny!"
47 One whose job suits you?
51 Historic periods
52 Fine wool
54 American Beauty, e.g.
55 Past
56 Rosary component
57 Arthur of tennis
58 Corral
59 Scandinavian city

DOWN
1 Whip
2 Reverberate
3 Burn somewhat
4 Choir's repertoire
5 "Get Shorty" author
6 "Breaking Bad" network
7 "The Sorcerer's Apprentice" composer
8 Happy
9 Solid, as abs
10 Farm fraction
11 Annie Lennox's "No More I Love —"
16 Strahan co-host
20 Method
23 Clear the tables
24 Illustrations
25 Ready money
27 Swindle
29 "Norma —"
30 Peacock's home?
32 Quick glance
34 Serves
37 D.C. figure
39 Mediocre
42 Summary
44 Pole dance?
45 Mrs. Zeus
46 Cupid's alias
48 Dregs
49 Exam format
50 Make over
53 Time of your life?

Solution time: 23 mins.

H	A	N	G	■	A	B	C	■	P	I	C	A
I	R	O	N	■	P	R	O	■	F	O	F	N
P	E	T	U	N	I	A	S	■	T	E	N	T
S	S	E	■	A	N	D	■	O	R	A	T	E
■	■	■	P	I	S	■	T	W	O	■	■	■
R	E	B	E	L	■	M	I	L	L	I	O	N
E	M	I	T	■	T	O	P	■	E	R	N	E
D	U	B	U	Q	U	E	■	N	U	K	E	D
■	■	■	I	F	X	■	D	I	M	■	■	■
S	T	E	A	D	■	H	I	S	■	M	P	S
H	Y	M	N	■	P	E	T	I	T	I	O	N
C	P	I	C	■	A	R	C	■	C	K	R	A
D	E	_	E	■	D	O	H	■	M	E	E	T

Yesterday's answer 9-10



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Ryan Phillippe, 40; Colin Firth, 54; Amy Irving, 61; Joe Perry, 64.

Happy Birthday: Stay calm, focused and intent on bringing about the changes that will make your life better. Accept the inevitable and consider the best way to use your skills, knowledge and expertise to bring in more cash and simplify your life to start cutting out unnecessary expenses. Don't refuse to acknowledge the obvious. Self-deception will be your downfall. Your numbers are 5, 12, 21, 27, 34, 39, 42.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Gossip won't serve a purpose. Take care of personal business your own way regardless of what others do or say. An emotional incident could lead to an unexpected connection with someone very different. Don't reveal personal secrets. ✪✪✪

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Look deeper if you feel confused regarding an employment problem you face. There is a practical answer that will lead to the changes necessary to obtain your goal. Don't let expectations stand between you and a practical choice. ✪✪✪

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Take on a part-time job or expand your expertise to help raise your earning potential. A self-improvement plan must be carefully checked out before you begin. If a product or service sounds unbelievable, it's probably a scam. ✪✪✪✪

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Don't show emotion or you will give whomever you are up against the upper hand. Quiet planning will bring steady progress. A personal relationship will improve if you make romantic plans. Don't let a last-minute change daunt you. ✪✪

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Put your plans in motion and proceed. You'll have plenty of motivation coupled with enthusiasm, know-how and finesse to lead to victory. Don't look back or be concerned with negative people. Opt to be positive and progressive. ✪✪✪✪✪

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Question whatever appears to be confusing, incomplete or disorganized. You can pull everything together if you look at situations and use practical applications to turn a mess into a workable venture. Relationships are best treated with caution, honesty and an open mind. ✪✪✪

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Look at all your options and embrace change. The quicker you are to recognize the benefits of a situation, the better the results. By helping someone you admire, you will get the opportunity to advance. Speak from the heart and you'll gain trust. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Keep an eye on what everyone around you is doing, but don't feel you have to compete. A little bit of observing will go a long way. An unusual personal relationship will become closer due to financial or professional circumstances. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Tread carefully when dealing with affairs of the heart or personal situations with friends or relatives. Honesty will be crucial if you want to follow your heart and make changes that will bring you excitement, adventure and greater happiness. ✪✪✪✪✪

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Don't fight the inevitable. Wasting time on something you have no control over will end in disappointment. Focus on your assets and securing what's yours. Don't concern yourself about what someone else thinks or does. Look out for your best interests. ✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): A change in your professional or personal status will brighten a relationship with someone special. Expanding your current job or adding more people to your roster will bring you joy. An emotional issue will be resolved quickly. ✪✪✪✪

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Evading issues will not benefit anyone. Give an honest opinion and let things unfold naturally. What's meant to be will be, so stop trying to manipulate a situation that needs time and space to grow. Focus on love and romance, not business. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are diplomatic and charismatic. You are a mediator and a peacemaker.

Eugenia's Web sites: *eugenialast.com for confidential consultations, eugenialast.com/blog/ for Eugenia's blog and join Eugenia on twitter/facebook/linkedin*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

					6	1		
				4			8	
				8			4	7
	4	9			2	7		
5			3	7	1		6	
1							2	
	8						9	
		6	7	2	4	3		
			6		8			

Difficulty Level ★★★ 9/10

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

6	9	2	8	3	7	5	4	1
4	5	8	6	1	9	2	3	7
3	7	1	4	2	5	9	8	6
9	4	5	2	8	1	7	6	3
1	6	3	5	7	4	8	2	9
2	8	7	3	9	6	4	1	5
7	3	6	9	4	8	1	5	2
8	2	9	1	5	3	6	7	4
5	1	4	7	6	2	3	9	8

Difficulty Level ★★ 9/09

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

KARL BENZ & GOTTLIEB DAIMLER — Solution: 9 letters

T	E	C	A	R	K	B	E	N	G	I	N	E	E	R
H	E	M	O	C	M	O	T	O	R	C	Y	C	L	E
I	R	A	U	P	W	A	T	E	R	N	G	A	S	I
L	H	R	M	E	S	T	A	R	O	N	Z	K	T	T
D	T	E	S	T	S	S	T	I	S	N	R	S	R	W
E	S	G	A	R	O	N	T	Y	E	A	R	R	E	A
R	U	N	R	O	E	A	E	B	P	M	E	E	E	G
I	A	I	A	L	E	L	S	S	D	T	N	E	T	E
H	H	R	L	R	L	E	B	R	Z	R	G	N	C	N
C	X	E	C	O	D	E	A	E	G	A	I	O	A	A
A	E	N	R	E	R	H	L	U	D	H	S	I	R	M
B	U	T	C	T	C	L	L	A	D	E	E	P	S	R
Y	G	R	H	I	U	P	O	L	A	U	D	A	O	E
A	E	A	R	A	Y	R	O	T	C	A	F	S	N	G
M	N	P	P	A	T	E	N	T	F	I	H	S	S	D

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Balloon, Bertha, Boats, Clara, Creation, Designer, Dual, Ellen, Engineer, Eugen, Exhaust, Factory, Gas, German, Hartmann, Maybach, Mercedes Benz, Motorcycle, Partner, Pass, Patent, Paul, Petrol, Pioneers, Plug, Race, Reitwagen, Richard, Ringer, Road, Shift, Sons, Sparks, Speed, Star, Streetcars, Team, Tests, Thilde, Three, Trolleys, Truck, Water

Yesterday's Answer: Constellations

Treasury 13, 14, 15, 16, 17 or 18 can be purchased online at www.WonderWordBooks.com. (Contain 130 puzzles.)

CLASSIFIED ADS

EMPLOYMENT

1 Taekwondo Instructor
$10.00/hour. Email Resume to bluedragon@live.co.kr

---

(1) Operation Manager $9.50-$10/hr, and (3) Camera operators, Television, Video and Motion Picture - $5.55/hr. Mail Saipan TV Production, PMB 272 Box 10000 Saipan.

---

2 Auto (Radiator) Repairer: $5.55-$6.05/hr. At least five years of experience required. Email resume to grace@hanmisaipan.com.

---

5 Cook (Korean/Japanese cuisine): $5.55/hr. Must be proficient in Korean or Japanese cuisine. At least 2 years' professional experience required. Email resume to chinayanbian@hanmisaipan.com.

Looking for a reliable caregiver for elderly woman. Duties include: help with administering medication, moving (bathroom/shower), light housekeeping related only to the elderly's needs. Live out. Please respond with salary expectations and experience. Serious inquiries only. Work schedule can be flexible. Call 483-3911, ask for Frank or Fran.

Ernst & Young (CNMI), Inc.
Position Title: Administrative/ Accounting Clerk
QUALIFICATIONS:
Holder of a Bachelor's Degree. Must have at least two (2) years work experience in public accounting office. Must have at least five (5) years work experience in administrative position and extensive exposure working with company executives Must have more than five (5) years experience in accounting work. Must be knowledgeable in income tax return preparation and compilation of financial statements. Must be knowledgeable in various accounting software such as Quickbooks, Peachtree, FAS & tax software. Salaries will commensurate with qualifications and experience, beginning at $5.55/hour. Please mail your resume at P.O. Box 503198 Saipan, MP 96950.

1-Accountant Bookkeeper/Computer Operator - $5.55 w/ 6 yrs exp & knowledge in Acctng & Taxes. Japanese Foods import/export docs related. Mail resume to SPE Saipan Box 502696 Saipan MP 96950.

Warehouse for RENT
REM GUALO RAI
Warehouse #3 - Size: 4,000sq/ft
$0.65 per sq/ft. Negotiable
REM LOWERBASE
Warehouse #2 - Size: 6,000sq/ft
$0.45 per sq/ft. Negotiable
FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEAS CALL 235-6527/28 or 285-1317

PACIFIC ISLAND CLEANING
JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT
(1) Commercial Cleaner
Must have 5 years experience.
Please send resume to PO Box 502670 Koblerville Saipan, MP 96950

GMA Corp. dba NMI Contractor
P.O. BOX 503317 CK, SAIPAN MP 96950
TEL/FAX: 233-5646 CELL: 287-3542/287-0847
Position: Purchasing Officer
Associate's Degree or College Degree and at least 2 years of work experience in procurement or purchasing operations. Must be knowledgeable in purchasing, shipping and delivery documentation. Experience in inventory material monitoring and counting required. Proficiency in MS Office applications such as Word and Excel is required. Must be willing to work shifts, evenings, holidays and weekends. Highly motivated, organized, outgoing, with excellent communication and leadership skills an advantage.

Background checks and pre-employment drug testing will be required prior to employment. Salaries will commensurate with qualification and experience. For applications to be considered, they should be sent by mail to P.O Box 503317, Saipan, MP 96950 or email to noel96950@yahoo.com not later than September 22, 2014.

CAR FOR SALE
(Moving to the States)
2008 Element, Great Shape
Asking Price: $12,000 or best offer
If interested, please call:
287-1915 and ask for **Ric**

FOR SALE
TOYOTA 4 RUNNER
MODEL 2011
COLOR: GRAY
BODY STYLE: 5WGN
SELLING PRICE: $29,000
For more information: Call Anita at 989-5119 or Marina at 789-8437

(5) Construction Worker
$5.55/hour
5 years' experience in all crafts, no housing/insurance. Must have their own transportation. Able to work nights and weekends. Drug testing. U.S. Only
Closes on: September 17, 2014
Send resume, references & police clearance to
QCM, LLC.
PMB 3602 Box 10001 Saipan, MP 96950

CHONG'S CORPORATION
Job Vacancy Announcement
Two (2) TECHNICIANS – AIR CONDITIONING & REFRIGERATION
- Install, service and repair of Central Air-conditioning, Refrigeration and Ventilation Systems
- Repair and service of Chilled Water Air-conditioning System
- Perform repair and trouble analysis of VAV and VVT Control Systems
- Perform Computer-based Control System

Other requirements:
- College Graduate
- Minimum 6-year work experience required
- Must possess good communication skill

E-mail resume to chongs@pticom.com.

JOB ANNOUNCEMENT
(2) Mason
(3) Carpenters
(1) Auto Electrician
with 5 years experience. $5.55/hr.
Please submit resume to Bespren Development dba Five Star Builders Corporation, located in Middle Road, beside Poon's Restaurant.
No phone call please.

CLICK IT OR TICKET
DAY & NIGHT

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT
(1) CAD Manager – Required Bachelor's degree plus 5 years experience.
(2) CAD Operator – Required Bachelor's degree plus 1 year experience.
Proficiency in AutoCAD 13, Google Sketchup 2013 and Microsoft Office. Respond to N15 Architects by Email to admin@n15architects.com

Job Vacancy Announcement
(4) Barber/Stylist
Cut, trim, and shape hair or hairpieces based on the customers' preference. Analyze patrons' hair and other physical features to suggest hair styles.
(4) Beautician
Hairdresser/Hair Stylist/Facial Make-up. Cut, trim, and shape hair or hairpieces based on the customers' preference. Analyze patrons' hair and other physical features to suggest hair styles. Bleach, dye, or tint using applicators. Shampoo, rinse, condition & dry hair & scalp or hairpieces with water, liquid soap or other solutions.
(1) Bookkeeper
Operate computers with accounting softwares to record, store, & analyze information. Comply with federal state & company policies, procedures and regulations. Prepare financial statements for management purposes & for govt. regulatory compliance.
Interested applicants may send resume to jojomfaller@yahoo.com or call at 235-5599 or 483-1971
POLARIS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

APARTMENTS FOR RENT
Realty Management Services
Fina Sisu Terraces
Small 1-BR, 1-BTH. Unit approximately 284 sq.ft. **$250**/month.
2-BR, 1-BTH. **$350-$550**/month. Close to NMC campus. MIHA applicants accepted.
LNH Apartments
(Lower Navy Hill)
Small 3BR & 2BTH. Unit approximately 600 sq.ft. EPA Solar Water Heater.
$450/month
Hilltop Condominium*
(San Vicente) Unit approximately 1,024sq/ft Luxury 2BR & 2BTH Apt with private balcony & majestic view. **$700**/month
Luxury 1BR & 1BTH approximately 600 sq/ft **$500**/month
***Wi-Fi & nighttime security excluded**
FEATURES:
- **Fully Furnished**
- **Back-up Generator**
- **Air-conditioning in all rooms**
- **FREE WiFi**
- **Laundry Area**
- **Nighttime Security**
- **Ample Parking**
- **24hr water**

Please visit our website at www.saipan-properties.com Call for an appointment 235-6527/8 or 285-1317.

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Samsung, Philips, Vizio...etc
Call for more information
233-5641
Open: Monday-Saturday 9:00am – 7:00pm
www.calvatron.net

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT:
(1) Office Manager
Minimum 5 years work related experience, flexible working hours, must be familiar with Office and Hotel Management. Knowledge of business and management principles involved in strategic planning and resource allocation, administrative and clerical procedures and systems such as word processing, managing files and records. Designing forms and other office procedures and terminology.

(1) General Maintenance
Minimum 3 years work related experience. Knowledge of materials, methods, and the tools involved in the construction or repair of houses, building or other structures.

Please mail resume with job references to PMB 173 Box 10001, Saipan MP 96950 Villora Condotel Residence LLC

MICHAEL A. WHITE, ESQ. F0122
THE LAW OFFICES OF MICHAEL A. WHITE, LLC
POST OFFICE BOX 5222
SAIPAN, MARIANA ISLANDS 96950
TEL: (670) 234-6547
FAX: (670) 234-9537

ATTORNEYS FOR Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION Plaintiff, -v- AUGUSTINA I. KUKKUN Defendant.] Civil Action No. 13-0068] NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an Order issued by the Court in this matter on August 29, 2014, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all of the right, title, and interest of Defendant in and to the following property: Lot No. 005 I 540, situated in Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, containing an area of 1,334 square meters, more or less, as shown on the Division of Lands and Surveys Official Cadastral Plat no.2084/82, the original of which was registered with the Land Registry as Document no. 14232, the description therein being incorporated herein by reference.

Date, Time, and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on Friday, October 3, 2014, at the hour of 1:30 p.m., at The Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, Joeten Center, Susupe, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public.

Terms and Conditions of Sale. The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.

DATED, this 3rd day of September, 2014:

/s/MICHAEL A. WHITE, Auctioneer

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Check out the latest issue and back issues of TAGA *Sports,* the CNMI's first and premier sports magazine, on issuu.com/tagasports!
Now you won't have to miss a copy of TAGA *Sports*. Visit issuu.com/tagasports to get your fix on all sports happenings in the CNMI!
To inquire about ad rates or to place an ad, call (670) 235-2440, 235-6397, 235-8747.

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Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

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Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 5-day run in both print and online editions, for as low as $30 for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of the packages below.

ADS	(PRINT)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	$15	$30
• 5-Liner	$24	$45

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Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

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FALL

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Find today's solution in classified section

Ravens cut RB Ray Rice after release of video

BALTIMORE (AP)—Ray Rice was let go by the Baltimore Ravens on Monday and suspended indefinitely by the NFL after a video was released showing the running back striking his then-fiancee in February.

The grainy video, released by TMZ Sports, shows Rice and Janay Palmer in an elevator at an Atlantic City casino. Each hits the other before Rice knocks Palmer off her feet and into a railing. Months ago, a TMZ video showed Rice dragging Palmer, now his wife, from the elevator at the Revel casino, which closed Sept. 2.

In a higher-quality video shown to The Associated Press by a law enforcement official Monday night, Rice and Palmer can be heard shouting obscenities at each other, and she appears to spit at Rice right before he throws the knockout punch. After she collapses, he drags her out of the elevator and is met by some hotel staff. One of them can be heard saying, "She's drunk, right?" And then, "No cops." Rice didn't respond. The video, which is slightly longer than the TMZ version and included some audio, was shown to the AP on condition of anonymity because the official isn't authorized to release it.

Earlier Monday, the Ravens said they never saw the new video. Hours later, they sent out a one-sentence release:

"The Baltimore Ravens terminated the contract of RB Ray Rice this afternoon."

Coach John Harbaugh said he met with Ravens owner Steve Bisciotti, team president Dick Cass and general manager Ozzie Newsome after they saw the video, and they made the decision to let Rice go.

"It's something we saw for the first time today, all of us," Harbaugh said. "It changed things, of course. It made things a little bit different."

The action represented a complete reversal for the team, even though an Atlantic City police summons stated that Rice caused "bodily injury to Janay Palmer, specifically by striking her with his hand, rendering her unconscious."

The Ravens had used words like "respect" and "proud" in referring to Rice following his arrest.

When the NFL announced Rice's two-game suspension for domestic violence on July 24, Newsome said: "We respect the efforts Ray has made to become the best partner and father he can be. That night was not typical of the Ray Rice we know and respect. We believe that he will not let that one night define who he is, and he is determined to make sure something like this never happens again."

In late July, Harbaugh said, "The thing I appreciate about it is how Ray has handled it afterward by acknowledging it was wrong and he'll do everything he can do to make it right. That's what you ask for when someone does a wrong thing. So, I'm proud of him for that."

AP

In this still image taken from a hotel security video released by TMZ Sports, Baltimore Ravens running back Ray Rice punches his fiancee, Janay Palmer, in an elevator at the Revel casino in Atlantic City, N.J., in February 2014. The Ravens terminated their contract with Rice Monday, Sept. 8, 2014, hours after the video surfaced on TMZ's website, and he was suspended indefinitely by the NFL.

Asked Monday night if Rice misled him, Harbaugh said he didn't want to get into "all that."

"I don't think of it that way. Everything I said in terms of what I believe, I stand by," he said. "I believe that still, and I'll always believe those things, and (we'll) always stand in support of them as a couple, and that's not going to change."

Rice said in a news conference this summer that his actions that night were "inexcusable." But the Ravens never took action against him until after the second video was released.

The NFL, which has been working hard to promote the game to women, also took action after the explicit video was released. Commissioner Roger Goodell announced that, based on the new video evidence, Rice has been suspended indefinitely.

"We requested from law enforcement any and all information about the incident, including the video from inside the elevator," NFL spokesman Greg Aiello said Monday morning. "That video was not made available to us and no one in our office has seen it until today."

Goodell indicated as much on Aug. 1 when during the Pro Football Hall of Fame induction weekend.

"When we're going through the process of evaluating the issue and whether there will be discipline, you look at all of the facts that you have available to us," Goodell said. "Law enforcement normally has more ... information, facts, than we have. We'll get as much as we possibly can."

Rice's lawyer, Michael Diamondstein, declined to comment when contacted by The Associated Press.

Rice, 27, stood to make $4 million this year.

"Obviously, any video that depicts an act of violence in that video is disturbing to watch. For our union, we have an unshakable position against any violence, certainly domestic violence included," NFLPA executive director DeMaurice Smith said at the Seahawks' facility in Renton, Washington. "It will be a time for us now to catch up with everything else that has occurred today."

He had been charged with felony aggravated assault in the case, but in May he was accepted into a pretrial intervention program that allowed him to avoid jail time and could lead to the charge being purged from his record.

After Goodell drew criticism not being tough enough on Rice, in a letter to all 32 NFL owners in August saying he "didn't get it right."

First-time offenders now face a six-game suspension.

Rice began his suspension Sunday, when the Ravens opened their season with a 23-16 loss to the Cincinnati Bengals. He was scheduled to return after Thursday night's game against Pittsburgh.

He leaves the Ravens as the second-leading rusher in franchise history, behind only Jamal Lewis. A three-time Pro Bowl selection, Rice is the team's career leader in total yards from scrimmage (9,214) and is the only player in Ravens history to rush for 1,000 yards in four consecutive seasons.

But those are mere numbers, and his actions in that elevator shed a new light on him.

"I'm not going to go into what he told us or anything or if it matches or if it doesn't," Ravens receiver Torrey Smith said. "That doesn't matter. What matters is what you see. It wasn't a pleasant site at all."

Rice hasn't spoken often to the media since his arrest, but on July 31 he said this is "something I have to live with the rest of my life."

He added: "I know that's not who I am as a man. ... I let so many people down because of 30 seconds of my life that I know I can't take back."

Stafford leads Lions to 35-14 win over Giants

DETROIT (AP)—Matthew Stafford was at his best when improvising—and that alone may be a sign of improvement.

Stafford threw two early touchdown passes to Calvin Johnson, and Detroit beat the New York Giants 35-14 on Monday night in Jim Caldwell's first game as Lions coach. It was a bright start for the Lions and their quarterback after the team collapsed down the stretch in 2013 - in part because of Stafford's turnovers.

"I don't work on my moves a lot during practice, but I know I have to be better with my feet this year so that we can keep plays alive," Stafford said. "On both of the touchdown passes to Calvin, the offensive line got me a lot of time, and he was able to uncover himself and find somewhere open."

The Lions intercepted Eli Manning twice in their first Monday night opener since 1971. Stafford went 22 of 32 for 346 yards, and Johnson had seven catches for 164 yards.

Manning was 18 of 33 for 163 yards and a touchdown for the Giants, who started 0-6 last season and never led in their 2014 opener.

"No excuses. We played very poorly," Giants coach Tom Coughlin said. "We don't have a lot to be proud of here. Couldn't move the ball, couldn't stop them, turned the ball over, got into that business again. Got a punt blocked, so you name it. It was a nightmare performance."

Stafford scrambled to his right and threw deep to Johnson on the game's first drive, and defensive backs Dominique Rodgers-Cromartie and Stevie Brown appeared to collide. Nobody else on the Giants was anywhere near Detroit's star receiver, who was able to jog into the end zone for a 67-yard touchdown.

Later in the first, Stafford scrambled to his left, and then threw back to his right. Johnson made a diving catch in the back of the end zone for a 16-yard TD and a 14-0 lead.

"When Matt breaks the pocket, I know I have to keep working, because he can put the ball anywhere on the field," Johnson said. "We worked out together a lot during the offseason, and we did a lot of footwork drills. You can see that it is paying off for him. He's making moves."

Stafford's two touchdown passes came on what looked like broken plays, and so did his 5-yard touchdown run in the third quarter. He scrambled up the middle on that one and cut to his left to avoid a potential tackler.

The Giants also missed the playoffs last season, thanks mostly to that terrible start. They were eager to begin on a better note against the Lions, but barely five minutes into the game, defensive end Jason Pierre-Paul went down with a neck injury. He was able to walk off the field, but he was taken in for X-rays.

Pierre-Paul was back in the game in the second quarter.

The Giants revamped their secondary in the offseason, but Stafford took advantage of a couple big breakdowns. In the third quarter, he found Golden Tate for a 44-yard gain on third-and-11, which led to a field goal.

Detroit's secondary, meanwhile, looked solid despite an injury that kept newly acquired safety James Ihedigbo out of the game. Glover Quin's interception in the third helped set up Stafford's touchdown run that made it 27-7.

Johnson tied Herman Moore's team record with his 107th straight game with a catch. He was banged up down the stretch last season, and Stafford struggled with turnovers as a playoff berth slipped away. Caldwell's hiring was in many ways viewed as an attempt to help Stafford take another step forward.

The former No. 1 overall draft pick completed his first six passes Monday. Stafford went 14 of 17 for 212 yards in the first half.

Detroit led 14-7 at halftime, and Lions rookie Nate Freese made a 28-yard field goal early in the third, after an interception by DeAndre Levy gave the Lions the ball at the New York 18. Freese added a 27-yarder later that quarter.

Rashad Jennings scored on a 1-yard run for New York in the fourth, but Detroit's Joique Bell answered with a 3-yard scoring run and the Lions added a 2-point conversion.

"I thought the signature drive of the game was in the fourth quarter. They had cut into the lead, and we knew we needed to grind down the clock," said Caldwell, who took over in the offseason after Jim Schwartz was fired. "That's what we mean when we talk about embracing the grind."

Tigers close gap to 1 game with win over Royals

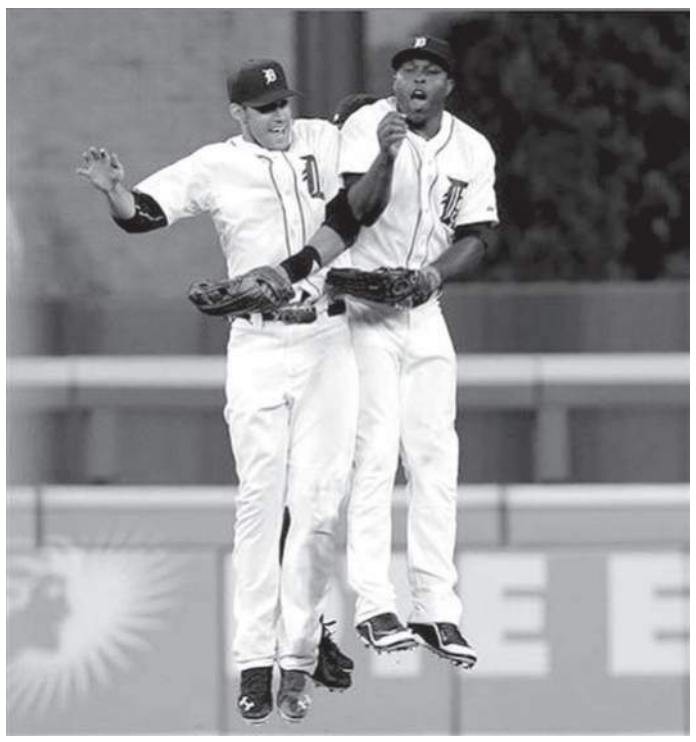
DETROIT (AP)—Torii Hunter had two of his three hits in a six-run third inning and the Detroit Tigers beat Kansas City 9-5 on Monday to move within a game of the AL Central-leading Royals.

Nick Castellanos had two hits and two RBIs for the Tigers. Victor Martinez had three hits, and Hunter scored twice and drove in a run.

Detroit's Justin Verlander (13-12) allowed four runs and six hits in seven innings.

Royals starter Jeremy Guthrie (10-11) allowed eight runs, six earned, and 10 hits in 2 2-3 innings. Guthrie has given up 14 earned runs in his last 6 2-3 innings against Detroit.

Lorenzo Cain hit an inside-the-park home run for Kansas City in the seventh inning. Eric Hosmer had three hits and drove in a run.



AP

Detroit Tigers outfielders J.D. Martinez, left, and Torii Hunter, right, celebrate with Rajai Davis after beating the San Francisco Giants 6-1 in a baseball game in Detroit, Sunday, Sept. 7, 2014.

Angels 12, Indians 3

In Cleveland, Jered Weaver became the AL's first 16-game winner, and the Angels did all their damage against Danny Salazar in one inning for their fifth straight win.

Albert Pujols hit a three-run shot in the ninth for the Angels, who hit four homers and are a major league-best 88-55. Weaver (16-8) allowed three runs and six hits in six innings.

Kole Calhoun hit a two-run homer and David Freese had a three-run drive in the fifth off Salazar (6-7), who shut out Detroit last week and had not given up a run in 21 consecutive innings.

The AL West-leading Angels diverted to Cleveland on their only scheduled day off during a long trip to play a game that was rained out on June 18.

Lonnie Chisenhall hit a two-run homer and had an RBI single as the Indians, who swept the White Sox over the weekend, had their winning streak stopped at four.

White Sox 5, Athletics 4, 12 innings

In Chicago, Tyler Flowers hit a tying solo homer in the ninth inning, and then another drive in the 12th to give the White Sox the win.

Flowers' game-ending homer came against Jesse Chavez (8-8). The White Sox were a strike away from a loss when Flowers connected against Eric O'Flaherty in the ninth. Oakland closer Sean Doolittle was unavailable because of an intercostal strain.

Javy Guerra (2-3) pitched two scoreless innings for the victory.

Oakland lost for the ninth time in 11 games but remained atop the AL wild-card race.

Marlins 6, Brewers 4

In Milwaukee, Giancarlo Stanton hit his NL-leading 37th homer, tying the Marlins record for career homers.

Stanton, who also leads the league with 105 RBIs, matched Dan Uggla's team mark with 154 homers.

Marcell Ozuna and Garrett Jones added back-to-back shots for Miami, which won consecutive games for the first time since a three-game streak from Aug. 16-19.

Milwaukee lost for the 12th time in 13 games. Yovani Gallardo (8-9) allowed five earned runs and nine hits in 3 2-3 innings.

Brad Penny (2-1) worked a season-high six innings for Miami. Steve Cishek pitched the ninth for his 33rd save.

Nationals 2, Braves 1

In Washington, Doug Fister pitched seven shutout innings, leading Washington to the victory in the opener of a three-game series between the top teams in the NL East.

Ian Desmond and Anthony Rendon each drove in a run for the Nationals, who increased their division lead over Atlanta to eight games.

The Braves trail the Pirates by 1 1/2 games for the second NL wild card.

Fister (13-6), who had lost three straight starts, allowed two singles and three walks. Drew Storen struck out the side in the ninth for his second save in two days.

Mike Minor (6-10) allowed two runs and seven hits in six-plus innings for the Braves.

Pirates 6, Phillies 4

In Philadelphia, Starling Marte hit a two-run homer to lead Pittsburgh to its fourth consecutive win.

Jeff Locke (7-4) struck out nine over seven strong innings to help the Pirates keep their grip on the second NL wild card. They entered with a half-game lead on Milwaukee and Atlanta.

Locke and Kyle Kendrick (8-12) were in a pitcher's duel until Pittsburgh scored four runs in the eighth. The Pirates are 65-50 since May 2.

Mark Melancon tossed a scoreless ninth for his 27th save.

Cardinals 5, Reds 0

In Cincinnati, Matt Carpenter broke a scoreless tie with his two-run single for St. Louis in the seventh inning, and Matt Adams added a three-run homer.

St. Louis has won nine of 10, going from two games out to a season-high 4 1/2 games up in the division. The Cardinals are 10-3 against the Reds this season and 40-24 against the NL Central overall.

Shelby Miller (9-9) gave up three hits while pitching into the eighth in his first victory in three starts against Cincinnati this season. Two relievers finished the three-hitter.

Carpenter's single off Manny Parra (0-3) left Cincinnati's bullpen 0-14 since the All-Star break, part of Cincinnati's 16-33 slide over that time. The Reds have dropped eight of their last 10 and fallen 10 games under .500 for the first time since 2009.

Orioles 4, Red Sox 0

In Boston, Nelson Cruz had a pair of hits and Miguel Gonzalez pitched into the seventh inning, helping Baltimore open a double-digit lead in the AL East.

The Orioles lead the division by 10 games, and the second-place Yankees have 21 games to play. Baltimore's previous double-digit lead in the division was in 1979.

Gonzalez (9-7) allowed six hits in 6 1-3 innings. Steve Pearce also had two hits for Baltimore, which has won nine of its last 12 games.

Boston's Joe Kelly (1-2) allowed three earned runs and six hits in 6 1-3 innings. He also hit two batters, and struck out six.

Blue Jays 8, Cubs 0

In Toronto, Marcus Stroman pitched a three-hitter for his first complete game, and Jose Bautista hit a three-run homer for Toronto.

Stroman (10-5) struck out eight and walked none while improving to 3-0 with a 1.19 ERA in his past three starts. Chicago was shut out for the 15th time this season, second in the NL behind San Diego's 18.

Bautista hit his 200th homer for Toronto, a two-out drive in the fifth off Jacob Turner (5-9) that was his eighth home run in 12 games.

Stroman was nearly hit in the face when Chris Coghlan hit a line drive back up the middle leading off the game. The ball struck Stroman's glove and ricocheted to shortstop Jose Reyes, who threw to first for the out. Stroman fell on his back as he bent out of the way, but was unhurt.

Mets 3, Rockies 2

In New York, Curtis Granderson hit a tying triple off LaTroy Hawkins in the ninth and scored two pitches later on Wilmer Flores' sacrifice fly, sending the Mets to the win.

Colorado had won four in a row.

Travis d'Arnaud doubled leading off the ninth against Hawkins (3-3), who blew a save for the third time in 25 chances.

Granderson's triple past right fielder Charlie Blackmon scored pinch-runner Eric Young Jr. Granderson then scored easily ahead of Drew Stubbs' offline throw on Flores' fly to center.

Carlos Torres (7-5) pitched a perfect ninth for the Mets, who wore camouflage jerseys as they started a 10-game homestand.

Dodgers 9, Padres 4

In Los Angeles, Clayton Kershaw became the major leagues' first 18-game winner, Yasiel Puig ended a 60 at-bat RBI drought, and the Los Angeles Dodgers beat San Diego.

Hanley Ramirez tied a season high with four hits and drove in two runs as the Dodgers increased their NL West lead to 3 1-2 games over the idle San Francisco Giants with their fourth straight win. Juan Uribe and Carl Crawford homered for Los Angeles.

Kershaw (18-3) reduced his major league-best ERA to 1.67, allowing three runs—one earned—and three hits. He struck out eight in eight innings.

The Padres, who lost their season-high sixth straight game, scored two unearned runs against the to-time NL Cy Young Award winner in the sixth on Rene Rivera's routine fly to center field that resulted in throwing errors by Puig, catcher A.J. Ellis and shortstop Ramirez—on the same play.

Kershaw is 15-1 with a 1.20 ERA and six complete games in his last 18 starts, including a no-hitter.

Odrisamer Despaigne (3-6) was charged with seven runs—six earned—and eight hits in 4 1-3 innings.

Mariners 4, Astros 1

In Seattle, Brad Miller had a tiebreaking two-run triple in the eighth inning and drove in three runs, helping Seattle gain in the AL wild-card race with a victory over Houston.

The Mariners moved one game behind Oakland for the first wild card. Seattle is one game ahead of Detroit for the second playoff spot.

With one out in the eighth, Mike Zunino worked a walk off Michael Foltynewicz (0-1). James Jones pinch ran and stole second. Tony Sipp entered and walked Michael Saunders.

With the infield and outfield drawn in, Miller hit a liner that skipped past right-fielder Alex Presley, rolling to the wall. Austin Jackson followed with an RBI single to center.

Danny Farquhar (3-1) worked the eighth for the victory.

Fernando Rodney put two on in the ninth but earned his AL-leading 44th save in his 47th opportunity.

Despite struggling with his control, Seattle's Felix Hernandez tossed five-hit ball for six innings. He matched his season high with four walks and threw two wild pitches.

Astros starter Brad Peacock allowed just four hits, walked two and struck out six in five innings.

Phoenix dominates WNBA Finals opener

PHOENIX (AP)—Brittney Griner swatted her way into the record books. Candice Dupree made just about every shot she took. Diana Taurasi dominated in all aspects.

Utilizing all of their star power at both ends of the floor, the Phoenix Mercury turned the opening game of the WNBA Finals into a roaring rout.

If Chicago doesn't play better or get Elena Delle Donna's back healthy, this could be one quick series—and the Sky know it.

"I think it was a big wake-up call for us," Sky point guard Courtney Vandersloot said.

The WNBA Finals appeared to be lopsided heading into the series: a team that set a league record for regular-season victories (Phoenix with 29) facing the first one to make the playoffs with a losing record (Chicago at 15-19).

The on-paper mismatch materialized on the court in the opener as the Mercury ran past the Sky and Delle Donne, who was limited to 11 minutes because of lower-back pain.

Griner set the tone early, blocking five shots in the first quarter on her way to eight for the game, both WNBA records.

Dupree hit her first 10 shots and had 26 points on 13-of-17 shooting.

Taurasi was in full control of Phoenix's offense, finishing with 19 points and 11 assists while the Mercury shot a Finals-record 58.5 percent from the field. Phoenix also held Chicago to 32 percent in the 82-63 runaway.

A dominating performance heading into Game 2 on Tuesday, but not a series-ender—not by any stretch.

The Sky have thrived in the underdog role all season, battling a slew of injuries to key players just to get into the playoffs, then beat Atlanta and Indiana in three-game series to get into the finals.

Even with Delle Donne ailing, the Mercury are wary of getting too confident against the Sky.

"This is a team that is hungry," Mercury coach Sandy Brondello said. "Yes, they're without Delle Donne, but they showed that they can still come back in the Indiana series and win it. We are showing them the due respect that they deserve because this is a good, young team."

Delle Donne was in clear pain during Game 1 and was still sore on Monday despite sitting out the second half the night before. She went through an assortment of treatment, including massage, stretching and ice, but the good news was that X-rays and an MRI showed no structural damage.

"I think it's maybe just frustrating for her that she felt great yesterday," Sky coach Pokey Chatman said. "Unsolicited, she just came up to me washing our hands in the locker room and said `Yeah, I feel really good.' It must be frustrating for her because she's doing everything and the trainers are taking care of her. It's a day-to-day and up-to-the-minute thing."

A bigger issue for the Sky may be the big woman in the middle for Phoenix.

Griner gave Chicago all kinds of fits in Game 1, altering as many shots as she blocked and forcing the Sky's players to kick the ball out instead of attacking the rim.

Griner's athleticism also hurt Chicago. She's 6-foot-8 with an even longer reach, but also moves well, allowing her to hedge out on screens and still get back to block or alter shots.

Finding an answer for her was a big point of emphasis for the Sky during Monday's practice.

"She was incredible," Mercury forward Penny Taylor said. "Her focus yesterday on being in the right position, she has great anticipation and I think that's the key to the blocks she had yesterday. She was prepared to help at any moment and seeing where everyone was on the floor. She was really impressive."

So were the rest of the Mercury.

Ghasias Brothers gets first semis win

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Ghasias Brothers picked up where it left off, stunning defending champion Ali'i, 94-81, at the continuation of the semifinal round of the 2014 DLX Invitational Basketball League last Monday night at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.

Ghasias Brothers, which took the fourth and final semis seat last weekend, returned to action two days later and boosted its finals chances after downing the erstwhile unbeaten Ali'i. Freddie Pelisamen, who exploded for 54 markers in the knockout game win over the Bandits, 79-78, last Saturday, led Ghasias Brothers anew, as he fired 41 points.

The former CNMI National Team member scored a string off 11 points in the fourth and 16 in that quarter alone, turning a 66-69 deficit at the end of the third period to a 13-point victory. Gyles Ruluked, who missed their playoff match against the Bandits, reported back for duty and supported Pelisamen with his 14 markers. Cat-quick Mike Olaitiman also finished in twin digits with his 12 points.

Ivan Devero paced Ali'i with his 26 points, while Nate Mateo chipped in 18. Mateo banked three early triples to put Ali'i on top by the end of the first period, 23-19.

Favor changed in the second quarter, as this time it was Olaitiman's turn to hit shots from downtown. He canned two triples and made all his points in the second quarter and Ghasias Brothers got one more triple from Jonathan Pelisamen to take the driver's seat, 45-39.

The seesaw battle continued in the third with Ali'i reclaiming the upper hand, 69-66, behind the 9 points of Devero, who got a lot of help from his teammates. Four Ali'i players scored at least 4 points each in the third period and combining the 9 markers of Devero they offset the 14 points of Freddie Pelisamen.

Freddie Pelisamen nailed Ghasias Brothers' last 7 points in the third quarter to keep his team afloat and Ali'i failed to stop him in the fourth, allowing the last semifinalist to earn an upset against the regular season top finisher.

Ghasias Brothers hopes to continue its winning ways today when it faces Flip Top, which also won its first semis match over SSFM, 84-81, last Saturday. The Ghasias Brothers-Flip Top tiff is set for the second game at 8pm, while SSFM and Ali'i duels in the first match at 6:30pm. The four remaining teams will play in a round-robin semifinals with the Top 2 squads marching into the championship.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Ghasias Brothers' Freddie Pelisamen drives strong to the basket and is fouled by Ali'i's Raymond Velasco during the third quarter of their game in the semis round of the DLX caging last Monday at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.

Ghasias Brothers 94 – F. Pelisamen 41, Ruluked 14, Olaitiman 12, Acosta 8, Ja. Pelisamen 6, B. Pelisamen 4, R. Pelisamen 4, Jo. Pelisamen 3.

Ali'i 81 – Devero 26, Mateo 18, Velasco 11, Peredo 11, Usi 9, Hernandez 4.

Scoring by quarters: 19-23, 45-39, 66-69, 94-81.

CILIC

From Page 28

ner's check and will rise to No. 9 from his pre-U.S. Open ranking of No. 16, which made him the first man from outside the top 10 to win a Grand Slam title in a decade.

"This," Cilic said, "is (from) all the hard work in these last several years—and especially this last year."

He prevented Nishikori from becoming the first man from Asia to win a major singles championship.

"Tennis has not been our biggest sport in Japan," Nishikori said. "Hopefully I can win next time."

There hadn't been a matchup between players making their Grand Slam final debuts at the U.S. Open since 1997.

Lopsided and lasting less than two hours, this hardly qualified as a classic. It had been 40 years since a U.S. Open men's runner-up failed to win at least four games in any set of the final.

"Both of us were pretty nervous in the first set, especially," Cilic acknowledged.

Cilic won the last 10 sets he played in the tournament, including three against 17-time major champion Roger Federer in the semifinals, and three against 2010 Wimbledon runner-up Tomas Berdych in the quarterfinals.

Nishikori stunned No. 1 Novak Djokovic in the semifinals, so this was the first Grand Slam final since the 2005 Australian Open without Djokovic, Federer or Rafael Nadal, who won the U.S. Open in 2013 but is sidelined now by a wrist injury. That trio had won 34 of the past 38 major titles, but this was the second of this season that eluded them.

Some, including Cilic, had seen Stan Wawrinka's victory at the Australian Open in January as an indication that the next tier—Cilic calls them "the guys from second line"—was about to get a crack at the hardware.

Cilic tested positive for a stimulant at a tournament in Germany in May 2013. The International Tennis Federation initially sought a two-year punishment; Cilic wound up with a much shorter suspension on appeal. He said he ingested the substance unintentionally via a glucose tablet bought at a pharmacy and says the process that led to his penalty "wouldn't be fair to any tennis player."

But he looks on the bright side.

"I just used the positive parts, which, you know, made me tougher," Cilic said.

Plus, it was last September that he connected with the only other man from Croatia to win a major, 2001 Wimbledon champion Ivanisevic.

"Any Croatian knows where he was at that time," said Cilic, who was 12 and at summer camp.

Ivanisevic insisted the biggest change for Cilic is being more relaxed on court.

"He didn't learn how to play tennis in this year," Ivanisevic said. "He always knew how to play tennis."

The 6-foot-6 (1.98-meter) Cilic, who is 25, and the 5-10 (1.78-meter) Nishikori, 24, each works with a guy with a major championship: Michael Chang is one of Nishikori's two coaches.

The Arthur Ashe Stadium artificial lights were on and the stands were mostly empty when the players walked out to the court at 5 p.m.—which was 6 a.m. in Japan, but did not prevent folks there from gathering to watch on TV. There wasn't much to cheer for.

Cilic won 19 of his last 20 service points in the opening set. The biggest problem for Nishikori, really, was there were not many extended groundstroke exchanges—and when there were, he tended to lose them.

He was off, whether because of the wind, the accumulated fatigue from a pair of four-hour-plus victories over No. 3 Wawrinka and No. 5 Milos Raonic, or perhaps knowing what was at stake for him, his country and his continent.

Nishikori admitted feeling jitters early and getting "a little bit lazy."

Cilic wound up with twice as many winners, 38-19.

"I guess Kei didn't feel it today," said Dante Bottini, who helps Chang coach Nishikori.

Nishikori only broke once, in the second set, and Cilic broke right back. In the third set, trailing 4-2, Nishikori had three other break points. But one was erased by an ace and on the others, Nishikori slapped second-serve returns into the net—an escape Cilic termed "lucky."

Soon enough, Cilic was kissing his shiny silver trophy. Later, he cradled that cup as he walked into his news conference, which was interrupted by his constantly ringing phone.

"I feel," he said of his career-defining moment, "it's going to definitely change my life."

BLUE HAUS

From Page 28

down on Mariana Resort's big men, particularly the frustrated Jorge De Guzman, who was called for two offensive fouls trying to muscle his way into Blue Haus' frontliners. Blue Haus also pressured Mariana Resort's ball handlers, making it difficult for the latter to set up its offense.

Blue Haus' defense was so unforgiving that Mariana Resort failed to score a single field goal in the entire second quarter and for about 14 minutes since the first period. Mariana Resort was still pretty much in the game after Jessie Stole canned a triple, cutting Blue Haus' lead to 3, 13-16, going into the final minute of the first frame.

Neither team scored in the remaining minute of the first quarter. Junar Guiab, however, started the second quarter with an and-1 play and Blue Haus went on to launch an 11-0 run to build a 27-13 spread.

Mariana Resort ended the protracted dry spell at the 4:16 mark of the second period off Joseph Galulu's pair of free throws. The third free throw came from Stole in the last few seconds of the first half, which ended with Blue Haus enjoying a 36-16 lead.

After a disastrous showing in the second quarter, Stole tried to pump up his teammates with some pep talk as they headed out of the playing court without Ed Cosino, who was held scoreless in the first half with Blue Haus players ganging up on him.

When the game resumed, Mariana Resort's erratic plays continued. They turned the ball over several times, had two players fighting for the rebound on a few occasion, and their big men walked back on defense, while Blue Haus frontliners sprinted to the frontcourt. On offense, Mariana Resort was forced to take outside shots and rarely had a chance for a second crack at the basket.

On the other hand, Blue Haus continued its impressive game, moving the ball well and drawing contributions from every player it fielded in the match. Blue Haus had everything going on its side and at one point with the 24-second shot clock winding down, Felix Palacios was able to beat the clock with a jumper and a Mariana Resort defender was also called for a foul trying to fight a screen Guiab provided for Palacios.

Guiab made the bonus shot and scored 3 more points to wrap up the third and give Blue Haus a commanding 58-26 lead.

Blue Haus more than doubled Mariana Resort's output, as the latter only got the elusive first field goal at the 6:58 mark of the third off Galulu's layup from the former's error in the inbound play and was limited to three more field goals late in the quarter.

With Blue Haus on top by 32 points, it was all over but the final score in the fourth quarter, as Mariana Resort still could not get its act together in the last frame. Mariana Resort played the fourth period without two key players, Elmer Pineda and Stole, who was injured and thrown out, respectively. Pineda hurt his knee while driving against two Blue Haus players early in the third, while Stole was slapped with two technical fouls late in the quarter for a verbal tussle with the officials and Blue Haus players after his teammate Jun Alipio was held down by Sam Fernandez in the rebound play.

Stole left the game with 6 points, all of them came in the first period, while Alipio was the lone double-figure scorer for the hapless Mariana Resort with his 10. De Guzman, who averaged 23.5 points in their previous two games, was held to 6 points and made only two field goals.

Guiab led all scorers in the one-sided finale, firing 20, while Tony Diaz and Edsel Mendoza contributed 13 and 11, respectively. Six other Blue Haus players made it to the board.

Meanwhile, PIC Chefs won the battle for the third place after notching a 91-79 victory over Armatech.

Finals

Blue Haus 71 – Guiab 20, Diaz 13, Mendoza 11, Berline 8, Pangelinan 5, Palacios 4, Santos 3, Moises 4, Factor 2.

Mariana Resort 42 – Alipio 10, Galulu 8, De Guzman 6, Stole 6, Sabino 4, Cosino 2, Pineda 2, de la Torre 2.

Scoring by quarters: 16-13, 36-16, 58-26, 71-41.

NFL

From Page 28

as a defensive tackle where he played 11 games as a backup defensive end registering 15 tackles, two in a Vikings loss, and 1.5 sacks.

Talalemotu thus followed in the footsteps of his uncle Ina, who was a member of the 1987 and 1988 Vikings squad that played in the 1987 and 1988 NCAA Division II national finals.

The 6'3", 275-lb former Beaverton High School basketball forward is hoping that his stint with the four-time NCAA finalists Vikings could be his golden ticket to someday play in the National Football League.

"I come off the bench at PSU because our defensive line is full of talent, we're really deep in every position and that doesn't bother me. I do wish to someday play in the NFL. I know, I do have a long way to go for that to happen but I'm going to work hard for it," said Talalemotu, who looks up to two-time Super Bowl champion and eight-time Pro Bowler Troy Polamalu since the Samoan plays with a lot of energy and remains humble despite all of his success in the NFL.

Talalemotu, who plans to major in Criminology and Criminal Justice, could really find himself playing for any NFL team someday after all the Vikings' website described him as a "young defensive lineman with a strong future in the program [that] moves very well for his size. [He] should see more playing time in 2014."

Talalemotu is the son of Fa'aea Talalemotu and Tamara Hunter.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Baltimore	84	59	.587	—
New York	73	68	.518	10
Toronto	74	69	.517	10
Tampa Bay	69	75	.479	15½
Boston	63	81	.438	21½

Central Division

Kansas City	79	63	.556	—
Detroit	79	65	.549	1
Cleveland	74	68	.521	5
Chicago	64	79	.448	15½
Minnesota	61	82	.427	18½

West Division

Los Angeles	88	55	.615	—
Oakland	80	63	.559	8
Seattle	79	64	.552	9
Houston	63	81	.438	25½
Texas	54	89	.378	34

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

Washington	81	61	.570	—
Atlanta	74	70	.514	8
Miami	70	72	.493	11
New York	69	75	.479	13
Philadelphia	66	77	.462	15½

Central Division

St. Louis	80	64	.556	—
Pittsburgh	75	68	.524	4½
Milwaukee	74	70	.514	6
Cincinnati	67	77	.465	13
Chicago	64	80	.444	16

West Division

Los Angeles	82	62	.569	—
San Francisco	78	65	.545	3½
San Diego	66	77	.462	15½
Arizona	59	84	.413	22½
Colorado	59	85	.410	23

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Rites of Passage 17: Road to Glory

PHOTOS BY ROSELYN B. MONROYO

UMA Guam's Jorelle "Elusive" Meno eludes a kick from Team Strikeforce's Jamaal "The Striker" Mresbang during their kickboxing bout in the Rites of Passage 17: Road to Glory held late last month at the Royal Taga Hall of the Saipan World Resort.

Trench Tech's Myron "The Natural" San Nicolas attacks Guam Muay Thai's Rocky "Rock Star" Quichocho.

HBP Guam's Dustin Smith employs a rear-ranked choke on Pwang's Garry "Dissa" Ray.

Trench Tech's Mark "The Dark" Nuique punches HBP Guam's Ernie Santos.

WFO's Frankie Ramangmao tries to keep his balance while pinning down Zalaka's Allan "The Silver Bullet" Aguon in the first round of their MMA bout.

UMA Guam's Ethan "Typhoon" Reyes, left and Trench Tech's Jordan "The Machine" Manglona trade kicks.

A bloodied Ernie Santos stands his ground against Trench Tech's Mark "The Dark" Nuique

Guam Muay Thai's Rocky "Rock Star" Quichocho connects with a kick on Trench Tech's Myron "The Natural" San Nicolas.

Trench Tech's Lucas "Irish Zombie" Nutting stares at Shocker's Tan 'Titan" Taisacan, while referee Keith Nabors gives finals instructions for their fight.

Team Shocker's Ray "Faluwasch" Teregeyo holds on to the neck of Down2Scrap's Jon "Outlaw" Camacho.

Tigers close gap to 1 game with win over Royals

PAGE 24

Saipan Tribune
Sports

Ghasias Brothers gets first semis win

PAGE 26

Cilic tops Nishikori for 1st Slam title

AP
Marin Cilic, of Croatia, right, holds up the championship trophy after defeating Kei Nishikori, of Japan, left, in the championship match of the 2014 U.S. Open tennis tournament, Monday, Sept. 8, 2014, in New York.

By HOWARD FENDRICH
AP TENNIS WRITER

NEW YORK (AP)—Marin Cilic was barred from last year's U.S. Open during a doping suspension he still says was unjust.

Unable to compete, he watched the tournament on TV from his home in Croatia, while using the forced time away from the tour to improve under the tutelage of new coach Goran Ivanisevic.

Now, 12 months later, look at Cilic.

"Seems completely unreal," he said, "to be called `Grand Slam champion.'"

The 14th-seeded Cilic won his first major final Monday, beating 10th-seeded Kei Nishikori of Japan 6-3, 6-3, 6-3 at the U.S. Open by using 17 aces and the rebuilt game and confidence instilled by Ivanisevic.

"This is a second chance he got," Ivanisevic said, referring to Cilic's four-month ban in 2013, "and now he can just go forward and forward."

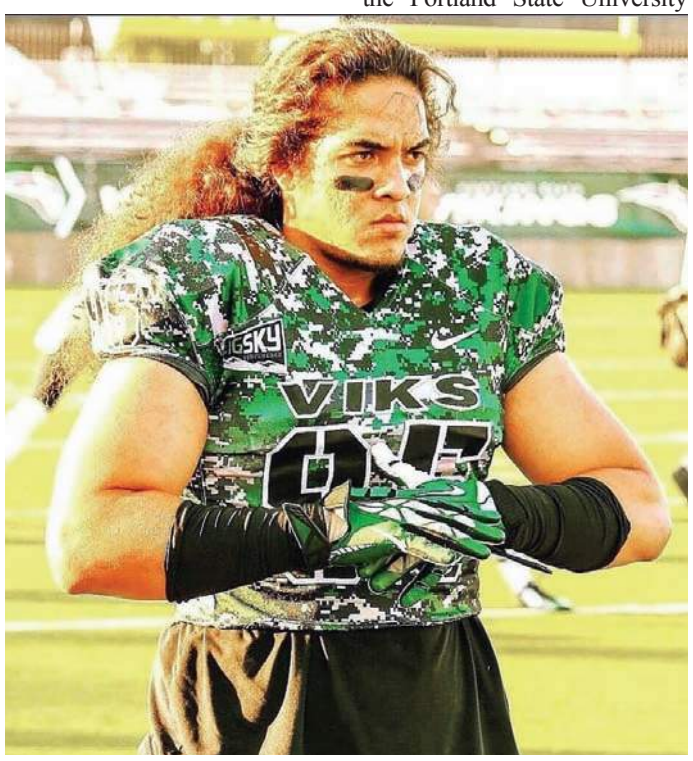
Cilic earned a $3 million win-

See CILIC on Page 26

Vali' hopes stint with Vikings earns him NFL ticket

By JON PEREZ
jonperez13gmail.com
REPORTER

Moving to Beaverton, Oregon is turning out to be one of the best decisions Saipan native Savali Talalemotu has ever made with the 19-year-old former Kagman High School standout now on his sophomore year playing for the Portland State University Vikings.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Savali Talalemotu dreams of someday following the footsteps of his sports idol, Pittsburgh Steelers' Troy Palomalu, to the National Football League.

The PSU Vikings play in the U.S. National Collegiate Athletic Association Division I's Big Sky Conference along with University of Montana, Montana State University, University of North Dakota, Northern Arizona University, Portland State University, California State University-Sacramento, University of California-Davis, University of Northern Colorado, California Polytechnic State University, Idaho State University, Southern Utah University, Weber State University, and cross-state rivals Eastern Washington University.

"I decided to move to Oregon in 2011 for my last year of high school where I went to Beaverton High School, where I also played my first year of football," said Talalemotu, who lives with his uncle Ina and aunt Megan.

"I liked both sports [basketball and football] but I think that it is at football where I think I really belong."

Playing as a defensive end for Beaverton High School's football squad earned Talalemotu a third team All-Metro League honors, which did not escape the watchful eyes of PSU scouts, which eventually led to him being recruited by the Nigel Burton-coached PSU Vikings.

After graduating in high school in 2011, he red-shirted for PSU in 2012 and the following year made his debut

See NFL on Page 26

Blue Haus takes masters crown

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Blue Haus schooled a disorganized Mariana Resort in their winner-take-all finale, 71-42, to clinch the championship of the 2014 Emon Lodge No. 179 Brotherhood Basketball League-Docomo Pacific Cup last Monday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Blue Haus nearly played a perfect game, pushing the right buttons to open a big lead in the second quarter en route to the lopsided win. Blue Haus worked out a patient motion offense and when given a chance also went for fastbreak plays.

On defense, they clamped

See BLUE HAUS on Page 26

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Blue Haus' Edwin Santos is double-teamed by Mariana Resort's Jorge De Guzman, left, and Ed Cosino during the third quarter of their title game in the Emon Lodge-Docomo Pacific Cup last Monday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.